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MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE AND REIGN

OF

GEORGE IV.

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GEORGE IV.



Drawn from a Bust.

Engraved by Messrs. Sears & Co.

GEORGE IV.

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GEORGE IV.

MEMOIRS OF HIS LIFE AND REIGN,

INTERSPERSED WITH

SOME OF HIS PERSONAL ANECDOTES;

AS WELL AS THE HISTORY, IN ANECDOTAL ACCOUNT OF THE HOUSE
OF BUCKINGHAM, FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD.

BY H. R. LLOYD, Esq.

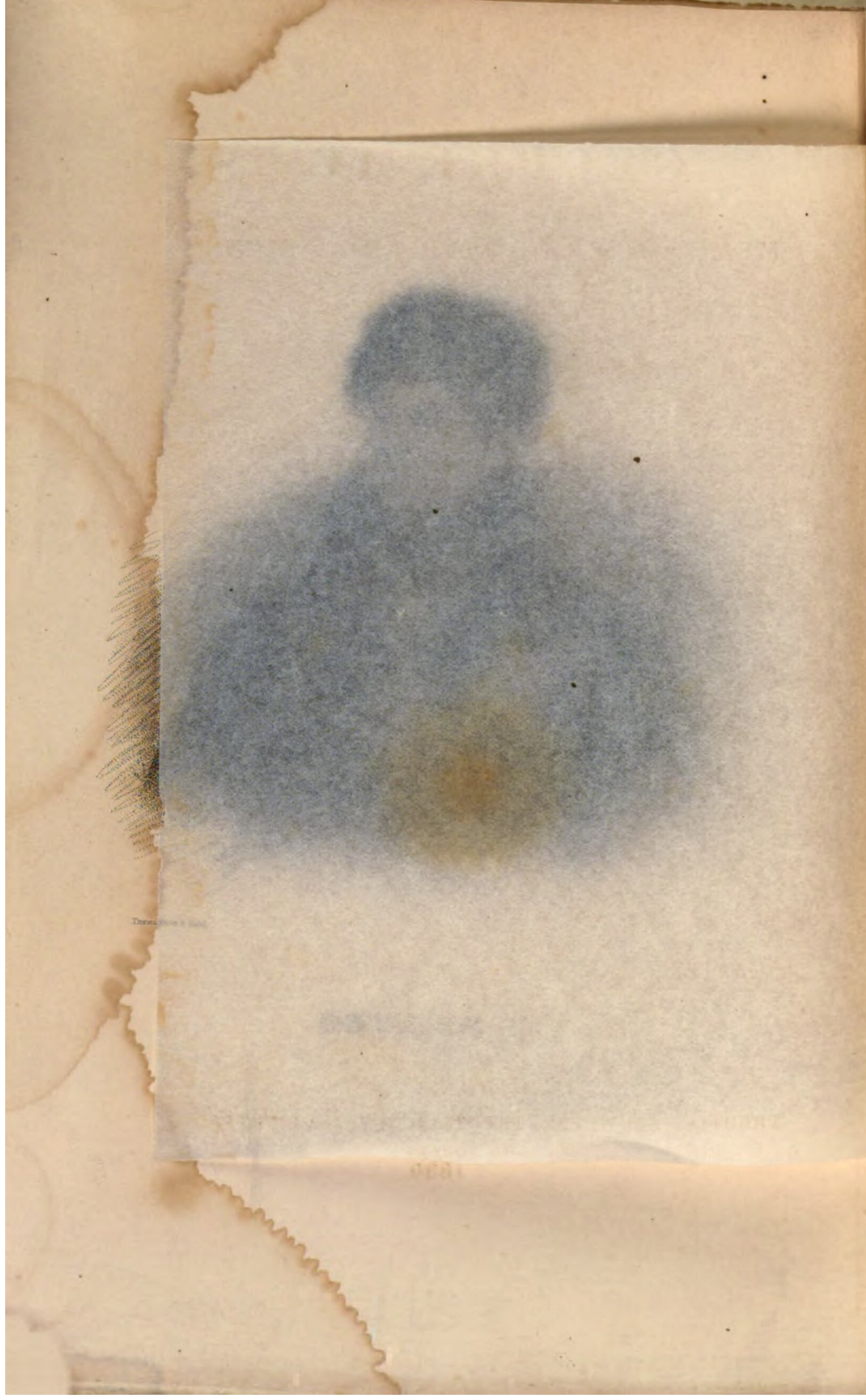
WITH A PORTRAIT AND AUTOGRAPH OF HIS MAJESTY.

George IV.

LONDON:

WILLIAMS AND WURNE, PRINTERS, 15, N. B. ST. AND 15, N. B. ST.

1830.



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INTERSPERSED WITH

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TO WHICH IS PREFIXED, AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE HOUSE
OF BRUNSWICK, FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD.

By H. E. LLOYD, Esq.

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TREUTTEL AND WÜRTZ, TREUTTEL JUN. AND RICHTER,
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In preparing the life of our late lamented Sovereign, I have availed myself of such sources of information, as were accessible to me, in order to place in as correct a point of view as I was able, his personal conduct and character, as a man and as a monarch; during the reign of his father, and in the period when we were governed by him.

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PREFACE.

IN preparing the following sketch of the Life of our late lamented Sovereign, I have availed myself of such sources of information, both public documents, and private communications, as were accessible to me, in order to place in as correct a point of view as I was able, his personal conduct and character, as a man and as a monarch, during the reign of his father, and in the period when we were governed by him as Regent and King.

The feeling that has guided my pen in this tribute to his memory, is wholly conformable to that which animates the following beautiful lines, which I rejoice have been published in time for me to adopt them, as the sincere expression of my own sentiments, in language which will find an echo in the hearts of all who can appreciate the character of **GEORGE THE FOURTH.**

H. E. LLOYD.

LONDON, *July*, 1830.

IN OBITUM REGIS DESIDERATISSIMI

GEORGII IV.

Now that thine eyes are closed in death, and all
The glories of thy birth, and state, and power,
Are pass'd, as the vain pageant of an hour,
Ending in that poor corse, beneath that pall,—
The tribute of a Briton's love I pay,
Not to the living King, but the cold clay
Before me :—

Let the throned and mighty call
For worldly adulation—the pale dead
Mocks him who offers it; but truth, instead,
O'er the reft crown shall say—

“ The King who wore,
“ Wore it majestically, yet most mild:
“ Meek mercy bless'd the sceptre which he bore ;
“ Arts, a fair train, beneath his fostering, smiled ;
“ And who could speak of sorrow, but his eye
“ Did glisten with a tear of charity?
“ Oh! if defects the best and wisest have,
“ Leave them, for pity leave them, to that God,
“ That God who lifts the balance or the rod,
“ And close with parting prayer the curtain o'er the
grave!”

W. L. BOWLES.

JULY 10, 1830.

GEORGE IV.

Now that these eyes are closed in death, and all
The glories of thy birth, and state, and power,
Are pass'd, as the vain pageant of an hour,
Lodging in that poor case, beneath that pall,—
The tribute of a Britain's love I pay,
Not to the living King, but the cold clay
Before me:—

Let the thunders and mighty call

For worldly adulation—the pale dead

Mock him who offered it, but surely, instantly, with

O'er the self-crown shall say—

“The King who wore,

“Were he justly, yet most mild;

“Mock mercy bless'd the sceptre which he bore;

“Aid, a fair train, beneath his fostering smile;

“And who could speak of sorrow, but his eye

“Did gladden with a tear of charity?

“Oh! if defects the best and wisest have,

“Leave them, for pity leave them, to that God,

“That God who fills the balance on the rod,

“And close with parting prayer the curtain o'er the

grave!”

W. L. BOWLER.

HISTORIC MEMOIR
OF THE
ROYAL LINE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

I.

THE founder of the House of **BRUNSWICK** was **Boniface**, Count of **Lucca**, so created in 769. He left a son named **Adelbert**, who was deprived of his domains for his gallantry in rescuing the Empress **Judith** from the monastery in which she was confined by her son-in-law, **Lothaire**, King of Italy. **Adelbert** then went to France, where he received honors and rewards which abundantly compensated for his losses. His son **Adelbert** became Duke and Marquis of **Tuscany**. He was succeeded by a son of the same name, who left two sons and a daughter. The elder son, **Guido**, is said to have died young. **Lambert**, the second, lost his eyes and estates by the treachery of his uterine brother, the Count of **Provence**.

There was a third Duke Adelbert, who, according to Leibnitz and Muratori, two historians of credit, was the son of the Marquis Guido; but Gibbon, on what ground he does not say, thinks he was only a cousin of the two princes. Let this be as it may, he was the father of the families of Este and Brunswick. He left a son named Othbert, who joined Otho of Saxony against Berengarius, King of Italy, which proved the means of uniting the two countries under the iron crown. Othbert, after distinguishing himself in arms, retired into a Benedictine Abbey, which he had himself founded. He was succeeded in his territories by a son of the same name, whose four sons involved the family in great trouble, by taking part with Ardouin of Lombardy against Henry of Saxony. Albert Azo, the eldest of these brothers, fixed his residence at the castellated town of Ateste, or Este. He was succeeded by his son Albert Azo the Second, who was the common father of the Italian line of Este, and the German one of Brunswick. He obtained the name of "the Great Marquis," on account of his munificence; and he was no less remarkable for his longevity—dying above one hundred years old, in 1055. He was twice married; first to Cunegunda, daughter and heiress of Guelph III. Duke of Bavaria; secondly, to Garsanda, daughter of Hugo, Count of Maine, by whom he had three children.

Cunegunda brought her husband a son named GUELPH, who inherited the maternal estates in Germany, and there planted the House of Brunswick. He was created Duke of Bavaria in 1071, and died at Cyprus, on his way to the Holy Land, in 1101. He was twice married: first to Ethelinda, daughter of Otho, Duke of Bavaria, from whom he was divorced; and secondly to Judith, daughter of Baldwin, Count of Flanders, and widow of Tosto, Earl of Kent, brother of Harold, the last of our Saxon kings.

By his second wife he had two sons—1. Guelph, the sixth Duke of Bavaria, who married Matilda, a lady of noble birth, and died without issue, in 1119;—2. Henry, called “the Black,” Duke of Bavaria, who died in 1125, leaving a son of his own name, designated as “Henry the Superb.” He espoused Gertrude, daughter of the Emperor Lothaire the Second, by whom he had Henry, called “the Lion,” from whom lineally descended the family of Lunenburg. Henry revolted in 1180 against Frederick Barbarossa, who put him under the ban of the empire, and confiscated his estates. Upon this misfortune he retired to England, and found a liberal protector in Henry the Second, who gave him his daughter Matilda (or Maud) in marriage, and afterwards procured him the dominions of Brunswick and Lunenburg. Thus the royal blood of our ancient kings became

incorporated with the family of Guelph ages before the Tudors or Stuarts were united with it.

Henry the Lion died in 1195, leaving three sons—
1. Otho, created by Richard I. Earl of York, and afterwards elected Emperor of Germany; 2. Henry, Count Palatine of the Rhine; 3. William, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, so created by his elder brother, the Emperor Otho.

II.

From this period the history of the family presents nothing remarkable till the year 1530, when it had for its head Duke ERNEST, called “the Confessor,” from his having embraced the principles of the Reformation, and introduced the Augsburg Confession into his estates. He died in 1546.

His third son, Henry, by the Princess Sophia, daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburg, became the founder of the House of Brunswick-Wolfenbittel, from whence issued the families of Blankenburg and Bavaria.

Another branch of the Duchy of Brunswick-Lunenburg, is that of Zell, which began with William, the fourth son of Ernest. This Duke William married the daughter of Christian III. King of Denmark, and had by her fifteen

children, seven of whom were sons, whose names were Ernest, Christian, Augustus, Frederick, Magnus, George, and John. On the death of their father, in 1593, to keep up the dignity of their house, these princes entered into an agreement not to divide the paternal inheritance. Accordingly, they resolved that only one of the number should marry; that the elder brother, Ernest, should have the sole regency of the Lunenburg estates for the general benefit; and that on his demise, the trust should devolve on the next in succession. The seven princes then drew lots who should marry, and the fortunate chance fell upon George, who espoused Anne Eleonora, daughter of Lewis the Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt, by whom he had five children. It is said that when the Grand Signor, Achmet the First, heard of this extraordinary compact, and of the faithful manner in which it was kept, he expressed great surprise, and observed, that "It was worth a man's while to undertake a journey on purpose to be an eye-witness of such wonderful unanimity in one family." This Duke George was educated at the University of Jena, after which he made the tour of Europe, and on his return to Germany, entered into the military service under the illustrious Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. In 1630, he defeated the imperial general Merode, near Oldenburg; which victory was followed by the capture of Hameln, Osnaburg, and

Petershagen. In 1634, he was again nominated to a command in the circle of Lower Saxony, where, in conjunction with the Hessian general Melander, he defeated the imperialists near Hoxter, and took several strong fortresses. This great man was carried off by a fever, which seized him at the siege of Wolfenbittel, April 2, 1642. He had by his duchess, who died in 1649, five children; 1. Christian Lewis, who succeeded him in the titles and estates:—2. George William, Duke of Brunswick-Zell, father of the Princess Sophia Dorothea, wife of George the First:—3. John Frederic, who became Duke of Hanover, Calenburg, and Grubenhagen. He turned Roman Catholic, and died in 1679, having married the daughter of Edward, Count Palatine of the Rhine, by whom he had no male issue. One of his daughters, Charlotte Felicité, married, in 1695, Rinaldo d'Este, Duke of Modena, and died in childbed, in 1710. Another, Wilhelmina Amelia, became the wife of the Emperor Joseph I., whom she survived, and died in France in 1730:—4. Ernest Augustus:—and lastly, Sophia Amelia, who married Frederic III. King of Denmark, and died in 1685.

ERNEST AUGUSTUS, the youngest son of the great Duke George, was born November 20, 1629; became Prince Bishop of Osnaburg in 1662, and Duke of Hanover in 1680, on the death of his brother John

Frederic, who left no male issue. This Duke Ernest distinguished himself with such valor against the Turks at the siege of Candia, and afterwards in Hungary, that the Emperor Leopold, in 1692, created in his favor a ninth electorate, with the title of Grand Ensign-bearer of the Empire. At the same time, Duke George William, his brother, ceded in his favor, for the support of this new honor, the Duchy of Lunenburg, the Principalities of Zell, Calenburg, and Grubenhagen, with the counties of Hoya and Diepholtz. But though the family of Brunswick were naturally proud of this high distinction conferred upon their house, several of the German princes strenuously opposed the decree; nor was it fully confirmed, by the admission of the Elector into the College, till several years afterwards.

Duke Ernest married, October 17, 1658, Sophia, the youngest daughter of Frederic V. King of Bohemia and Elector Palatine, by the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James the First, King of Great Britain.

III.

ELIZABETH STUART was born at Stirling, August 19, 1596. On the accession of her father to the English throne, she was placed under the care of Lord and Lady Harrington, at their seat called Court Abbey, in Warwick-

shire. Here she resided at the time when the diabolical plot was formed to cut off the rest of her family, by blowing up the two Houses of Parliament, November 5, 1605. The conspirators intended to seize the young princess, and bring her up in the Catholic religion; for which purpose they appointed a grand hunting match of the party in the neighbourhood of Lord Harrington, thinking that the object of their enterprise would be the easier accomplished upon such an occasion. The scheme, however, failed by the defeat of the primary plan. Notwithstanding this, King James was so infatuated as to enter into a negociation for the marriage of his daughter; first to the son of the Duke of Savoy, one of the most bigoted adherents of the Pope; and next, to Philip IV. of Spain. The rumour of this unnatural alliance created a general alarm among all the Protestant powers of Europe, and raised the indignation of the people of England to a ferment.

Sir Edward Conway, then governor of the Brill, one of the cautionary towns in Holland, wrote thus in 1611, to Sir Adam Newton, tutor to Henry, Prince of Wales:—
 “If it shall be possible and found good by His Majesty, the Defender of the Faith, to give his blessed and gracious daughter into Spain, and her children to be bred up in that religion; and for the Catholic King to be dispensed with to match with a blessed Christian princess,

the dangers his Majesty and his royal issue are exposed to from the Spanish and Jesuitical practices are such, as I tremble to think of them.

“His Highness, as a counsellor to his royal father, as heir-apparent to the crown, as having the expectation and hope of the world cast upon his excellent worth and powers, is called upon, not only to observe these passages, but to be provident in them, as the most faithful watchman and remembrancer to his Majesty; and foreseeing, that a small industry and force turns aside inconveniences, which, once come and seated, will not be remedied but with infinite difficulty.”

The Protestant potentates of Germany, and particularly the States of Holland, exerted themselves to counteract the machinations of Spain; and the Court of France being no less jealous of the ascendancy of that power, united with them in thwarting the matrimonial negociation.

At first it was intended to propose the young Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel for the princess; but this idea was soon set aside in favor of Frederick, Elector Palatine of the Rhine. This prince, who was of the same age as Elizabeth, being born August 16, 1596, was of the House of Bavaria, and a lineal descendant of the Guelphs. His father, Frederick, called “the Sincere,” died in

1610, and his mother, Louisa Juliana, daughter of the great William of Nassau, Prince of Orange, in 1644.

By the powerful exertions of the foreign states, the English nobility, and the Prince of Wales, but perhaps as much by the influence of the golden presents from Holland, King James was induced to break off the treaty with Spain, and consent to receive Frederick as a son-in-law. The Elector accordingly landed at Gravesend, October 16, 1612; but the joy which his arrival occasioned was damped by the death of the amiable Prince Henry on the 6th of November following. In consequence of this calamity, the nuptials were deferred till the 14th of February, when the ceremony took place with great pomp at Whitehall: and on the 10th of April, the prince and his wife left England. In 1619, the throne of Bohemia becoming vacant, the states of that kingdom chose the Elector Palatine to that dignity; which in an evil hour, and, as it was said, by the persuasion of his wife, he accepted. This raised a war in Germany, that lasted thirty years; in which Frederick not only lost his new crown, but his hereditary dominions, and was obliged to seek a refuge in Holland, where he died in 1632, leaving six sons and five daughters, with their mother, dependent upon the bounty of the states, and the pension granted by Charles the First.

It is generally known that the latter, when Prince of Wales, rashly ventured into Spain for the purpose of fetching a wife, but that the negociation failed, and he was suffered to return, much to the surprise of the people, who feared he would have fallen a victim to his temerity. That he did not, is very naturally accounted for by Spanheim the historian, who says, "The Spaniards dreaded the succession of Elizabeth of Bohemia and her family to the English throne; and therefore, to prevent it, permitted him to return home in safety."

Wonderful, however, is the wisdom of Providence in directing the fate of nations. Elizabeth, who had been selected as an instrument for the establishment of Popery, by the conspirators in 1605, became the means of securing and perpetuating a Protestant government.

No woman of her rank ever experienced such trials and vicissitudes, nor did any one ever bear them with greater fortitude. After seeing the monarchy put down by the murder of her brother, she lived to witness the restoration of her nephew to the throne, and on the 17th of May, 1661, she landed in England, where she died, February 13, 1662, and was buried in the royal vault of Henry the Seventh's Chapel, Westminster. Frederick and Elizabeth of Bohemia had thirteen children—1. Frederick Henry, who was drowned in the lake of Haarlem; 2. Charles Lewis, who became Elector Palatine; 3. Rupert, cele-

brated for his exploits by land and sea, first in the rebellion, and afterwards in the Dutch war; 4. Maurice, who perished in a voyage to the West Indies in 1654; 5. Louis, who died an infant; 6. Edward, who turned Catholic, and died in 1663; 7. Philip, who was killed at the battle of Rethel in 1650; 8. Gustavus Adolphus, who died in 1646; 9. Elizabeth, the accomplished correspondent of Des Cartes, Madam Schurman, and Penn the Quaker; 10. Louisa Hollandina, who turned Catholic, and became superior of a convent in France; 11. Henrietta Maria, who married Sigismond, Duke of Montgatz; 12. Charlotte, who died in childhood; 13. SOPHIA, born October 13, 1630, and married, at the age of eighteen, Ernest Augustus of Brunswick, Duke of Hanover, who died February 3, 1698. This marriage produced six sons and a daughter—1. George Lewis, the second Elector; 2. Frederick Augustus, who became a general in the imperial service, and was slain in Transylvania in 1691; 3. Maximilian William, who rose to the command of the Venetian armies, and died in that service; 4. Charles Philip, who in 1690 fell into the hands of the Turks in Albania, and soon after died of his wounds; 5. Christian, who was drowned in crossing the Danube after the defeat of the imperialists at the battle of Munderkingen in 1703; 6. Ernest Augustus, who in 1716 was elected Prince Bishop of Osnaburg, and in the same year was created

by his brother, then King of England, Duke of York and Albany; he died in 1728; 7. Sophia Charlotte, who married, in 1684, Frederick, Elector of Brandenburg, and afterwards King of Prussia. She died at the age of thirty-seven, in 1705.

IV.

The Electress Sophia inherited a considerable share of her mother's spirit, and evinced an understanding of a very superior description. She kept up a secret correspondence with the English nobility at the close of the reign of Charles the Second, and there are many of her letters existing which prove that she was an intent observer of the proceedings of James the Second.

Bishop Burnet takes the credit of this to himself. After observing, that when he resided in Holland, the Duke of Hanover was much attached to the Court of France, he proceeds thus: "I ventured to send a message to the Princess Sophia by a French refugee named M. Boncour: it was to acquaint her with our design with relation to England, and so let her know, that if we succeeded, a perpetual exclusion of all Papists from the succession to the crown would be enacted; and since she was the next Protestant heir after the two Princesses and the Prince of Orange, of whom there was at that time

no issue alive, I was very confident, that if the Duke of Hanover could be disengaged from the interests of France, so that he came into our interests, the succession to the crown would be lodged in her person, and in her posterity; though, on the other hand, if he continued, as he stood then, engaged with France, I could not answer for this. The gentleman carried the message, and delivered it. The duchess entertained it with much warmth, and brought him to the duke to repeat it to him, but at that time this made no great impression upon him; he looked on it as a remote and a doubtful project: yet when he saw our success in England, he had other thoughts of it. Some days after this Frenchman was gone, I told the Prince of Orange what I had done; he approved of it heartily, but was particularly glad that I had done it as of myself, without communicating it to him, or any way engaging him in it; for, he said, if it should happen to be known that the proposition was made by him, it might do us hurt in England—as if he had already reckoned himself so far master, as to be forming projects concerning the succession to the crown,”

This must be set down as one of those prophecies which originate in the reflection of the historian after the event, rather than in the vaticination of political foresight. At this time James the Second had two married daughters, and the prospect of further issue by a

young wife. The prospect, therefore, held out by Burnet, was, as the Duke of Hanover conceived it to be, extremely remote and visionary.

But if the fact be as the prelate states, while we give credit to him for his political sagacity, we cannot but consider his principles in a questionable light. The people of England certainly had no relish for a Dutch government; and had it been known to them that such a yoke was intended, there would probably have been a general rising to repel the Prince of Orange from the British coast, instead of hailing him as a deliverer. One thing is certain, that after the revolution, neither William nor Anne manifested any regard for the Hanoverian family, although the rights of that house, when duly examined, were equal to those of the personages in possession.

When, however, the Duke of Gloucester, the last surviving child of the Princess Anne, died, July 30, 1700, it became necessary to provide for the security of the Protestant succession.

Accordingly, on the 14th of June, 1701, an Act of Parliament received the royal assent for the limitation of the succession of the crown, after the demise of King William and the Princess Anne of Denmark, to the Electress Dowager Sophia of Hanover, and her issue, being Protestants.

Against this act of settlement a protest was made on

behalf of the Duchess of Savoy, daughter of Henrietta, Duchess of Orleans, youngest daughter of Charles the First.

As soon as this important Act passed, the Earl of Macclesfield was despatched to Hanover with it, in the capacity of ambassador extraordinary. His reception of course was very gracious, but an historian and eye-witness says, that the Court of Hanover was far from exhibiting that morality which became its dignity. On this account, Archbishop Tenison wrote to the Princess Sophia, intreating her to dismiss all improper persons, visitors, and others, from her palace. It is certain that the Electress, notwithstanding her advanced age, was very free in her discourse upon religious subjects, and gave more encouragement than became her to sceptics and libertines, particularly Toland, who was also a great favorite with her daughter, the Queen of Prussia.

About the end of Queen Anne's reign, the ardent friends of the House of Hanover were very desirous that the Electoral Prince, afterwards George II., should be invited over to this country; but the design was opposed by her Majesty, who sent the Earl of Clarendon to dissuade the father from suffering his son to take such a step, for fear of raising the spirit of party to a higher degree of excitement than it had already attained. The Elector had the good sense to follow the advice, contrary

to the will of his mother, whose passions, always strong, could ill brook this opposition to her wish; and on the 8th of June, 1714, she died, as was said, of chagrin. But though she might be mortified, it is too much to ascribe her death, at such an advanced age (eighty-four), to pure vexation.

Had Sophia lived ten weeks longer, she would have been proclaimed Queen of Great Britain.

V.

GEORGE LEWIS, the Second Elector of Hanover, was born May 28, 1660. He gave early marks of genius, judgment, and valor. At the age of twelve he spoke Latin, French, and Italian, fluently; but never could converse in English, for want of learning the language in his youth. In 1675, being then no more than fifteen, he accompanied his father and uncle in the campaign against the French; and distinguished himself with uncommon bravery at the battle of Consarbrück, where he stood in the hottest of the fire. The Emperor Leopold was so much impressed with gratitude to his supporters for this victory, that he wrote three letters of thanks with his own hand; one to the Duke Ernest, one to his brother, the Duke of Zell, and one to Prince George, whom he complimented in a very flattering manner, on account of the glorious signs which he had given of future greatness.

George William, Duke of Zell, was very proud of his nephew, and wished to draw him into a nearer bond of affinity, by marrying him to his daughter. The history of this princess is most melancholy, and would in its circumstances afford an excellent foundation for a romance or tragedy. Sophia Dorothea, of Zell, was born in 1666, being the only one of four daughters who lived to maturity. Her mother was Eleanor d'Esmiers, daughter of Alexander, Lord of Olbreuse, in Poitou, who at the time of her marriage possessed the lordship of Harbourg, which the emperor afterwards, in honor of her, created into a principality. But the distinctions which she received herself, and those which she lived to witness bestowed upon some of her family, were sadly counterbalanced by the misfortunes of her daughter. At the age of nine years, Sophia Dorothea was betrothed to her cousin, Augustus Frederic of Wolfenbuttel, who fell at the siege of Philipsburgh, in 1677, consequently without having consummated his ill-starred marriage. At this time it is said that Lewis the Fourteenth ordered his ambassador, Gourville, to propose a marriage between Prince George of Hanover and the daughter of the Duke of Orleans. That the French monarch made such an overture, is probable ; but he could not have been, as the German historian who relates it says he was, induced by any design to prevent the succession of the House of

Brunswick to the English throne; since at this time there was not even a remote prospect that the line actually in possession would be disturbed. Charles the Second was then in health; and his brother not only had children by his first wife, but every appearance of a family by his second, the young princess of Modena, to whom he had not been long married. The motive of Lewis seems to have been more immediately personal, and to have had for its object the attachment of the Hanoverian interests to the court of France. But be his design what it might, the circumstance proves the importance of this branch of the House of Brunswick, even before its elevation to the electoral dignity, when the greatest powers of the continent courted its alliance. Well would it have been for Sophia Dorothea, had her family formed a junction with the House of Bourbon. I will not say, as many do, that the marriage of first cousins is too near to be happy; but it is certain that many instances might be adduced to justify an objection to such connections. The case of the unhappy Princess of Zell is one of the most prominent in the melancholy catalogue; but it is involved in a cloud of mysterious darkness which even the lapse of a century has not dispelled.

In the state of childhood, when no affection could be formed, or any just notions be conceived of the nature and obligation of the connubial relation, was Sophia

Dorothea obliged to enter into the most serious of all engagements, with her first cousin, who was double her own age. Within a year, however, the death of her spouse released her from this preposterous and unnatural tie; but it was only to consign her over to another, not less inconsistent and oppressive. A widow of ten years old, in one of the most enlightened parts of Europe, conveys an idea so ludicrous as scarcely to deserve credit, were not the fact upon record. But, what will perhaps appear equally extravagant, is the circumstance, that on the death of the husband of this infant, her father and uncle came to an agreement to unite her in the bonds of marriage to her other cousin, Prince George Lewis of Hanover, then sixteen years of age. It is true the ceremony did not take place at Zell till the 28th of November, 1682, when the bride had completed her sixteenth, and the bridegroom his twenty-second year; but it is no less certain, that the engagement was made by all the parties, soon after the death of the Prince Augustus Frederick of Wolfenbuttel. In the mean time Prince George travelled, and made some campaigns; while the bride elect completed her education, and prepared herself as well as could be expected from one of her years, for the important duties of a wife and a mother. On the 30th of October, 1683, the princess gave her husband a son, who was named George; and

four years afterwards she brought him a daughter, named Sophia Dorothea, who became the wife of Frederic William of Prussia, and mother of Frederick the Great. To account for the distance of time between the births of these children, it must be observed that Prince George Lewis, soon after his marriage, entered again upon the military career in Hungary, where he commanded the Brunswick troops in the imperial service, and soon after took Neuhäusel, and raised the siege of Gran. In 1686, he was at the taking of Buda; in 1689, he was at the capture of Mayence; and the next year he commanded an army of eleven thousand men, in the Spanish Netherlands, where, in 1693, he bore a distinguished part in the sanguinary battle of Neerwinden. Soon after this, the prince returned to Hanover, but within a few months his temper was observed to be much altered, and he either looked upon his wife with an eye of jealousy, or his own affections were estranged from her and transferred to some other object.

A young German count, named Philip Christopher Königsmark, who held the commission of colonel in the Swedish service, happened to be then at Hanover, and upon him the suspicions of the prince fell, but whether from secret information, or any particular observations of his own, has never been determined. His Highness, however, is said to have entered the bedchamber of

Sophia Dorothea so suddenly, that Königsmark, in his haste to escape, left his hat behind him, which confirmed all that had been surmised of an improper intercourse between him and the princess, and a separation immediately took place. Another account, of a darker hue, which obtained currency, was that the Prince of Hanover actually found Königsmark in the room, and in his fury ran him through the body.

Though this last story appears to be incorrect in the principal points, certain it is that the princess was arrested, and sent off to the castle of Ahlen, where she lingered out a miserable life of two-and-thirty years in close confinement, without a trial, or being allowed to see any of her family.

The fate of the colonel was never exactly known, any farther than that a report of his having died at Hanover, in the month of August, 1694, was transmitted to his friends, who were too much accustomed to such calamities in their family, to make any stir about the affair. That the count came to a violent end, seems to be put beyond all doubt by the manner in which he disappeared; and it is remarkable, that some years ago, when the castle of Zell underwent repair, the skeleton of a man was found beneath one of the floors, which revived the name and story of the unfortunate Königsmark.

With regard to Sophia Dorothea, her connections

prevented any severer measures from being pursued against her than perpetual confinement; to justify which a decree was published at Hanover, asserting that circumstances had been produced in evidence before the consistory, of such a nature as warranted the belief that she had been unfaithful to her illustrious husband. The strongest of these circumstances, however, was that of the hat which the prince found in the room; and the agitation which the discovery naturally produced in her Highness, was at once interpreted into a demonstration of conscious guilt. To those who have been accustomed to the consideration of criminal charges, and the minute investigation of evidence, this case will appear more like an occurrence of the iron age, when feudal oppression and military despotism prevailed, than an event of the seventeenth century, in a country boasting of its jurisprudence.

That no proof of adultery was ever brought forward, is certain; and, for the want of it, the parties could not be legally divorced, which they would certainly have been, had evidence existed of the criminality of the princess. Some there were, even in Hanover, who not only considered Sophia Dorothea as perfectly innocent of what she was accused of, but as being actually made a victim to the prostituted affections of her husband. This opinion may now be adopted, without any hazard of refutation or

of giving offence ; for neither before the accession of the Elector of Hanover to the British throne, nor afterwards, when such a proceeding became especially necessary, as a matter affecting the succession, was the conduct of the duchess brought, as it ought to have been, under judicial investigation. Had Sophia Dorothea been really guilty of an adulterous intercourse with Königs-mark, or any other person, the public interest required a trial ; but nothing of the kind ever took place, and the parties remained in the relation of man and wife to the death of the queen in her prison, at the age of sixty, on the 2nd of November, 1726.

It is very extraordinary, and little to the credit of the times, that not the slightest notice was ever taken of the unhappy Sophia by the English parliament or people, after the arrival of her husband. If she was guilty, a legal divorce ought to have been called for, upon public grounds ; and if she was not, the honor of the nation, and the cause of humanity, required her liberation, and an establishment in circumstances suited to her high birth and royal station. Instead of this, though the mother of the heir-apparent, and actually Queen of England, she was suffered to linger out her days in a dungeon, while the mistress of her husband shone as a peeress of the first rank at the English court.

One person alone ventured to incur the royal displea-

sure, by advocating the cause of the afflicted and much-injured Sophia Dorothea of Zell. This was the prince her son; who was so fully convinced of his mother's innocence, (and he was not ignorant of all that had been alleged against her,) that on many occasions he reproached his father for his injustice towards her, and openly declared his intention of bringing her to England, and acknowledging her as Queen Dowager, in the event of his succeeding to the crown while she was living.

This virtuous resolution he was only prevented from carrying into execution by the death of his unhappy mother, six months before that of her husband. The prince made several attempts to get access to his imprisoned parent; but all his efforts to accomplish his praiseworthy object proved unavailing, by the vigilance of the guards.

He was so sensibly affected upon this point, that he had the picture of Sophia Dorothea painted, in her royal robes, long before he came to the crown; and this portrait he caused to be so placed as to attract the notice of all his visitors; which gave such offence to the King, that he not only declined going himself to see the prince and princess, but forbade his courtiers from shewing them that respect. It was also owing to this sentiment of filial regard, that George II., when in a passion, always took off his hat and kicked it about the floor, without con-

sidering the place or the company. Thus it is that early impressions, once fixed in the mind, create habits ; and circumstances, by an association of ideas with events long since passed away, excite either disagreeable or pleasing emotions. In allusion to this remarkable history, and the effect which it had on the mind of the King, Dr. Hoadley, the physician, wrote his comedy of "The Suspicious Husband;" the plot of which turns upon an incident similar to that which proved so disastrous to the Princess of Hanover. With this play, George II., who had little taste for the drama, was much delighted.

In 1707, the Duke of Hanover commanded the army of the German confederates upon the Rhine, where he soon turned the scale against the French, who had hitherto been very successful under Marshal Villars. For his services during that and the two following campaigns, he was put into full possession of his rights as Elector, in which capacity he acted at the coronation of the Emperor Charles the Sixth, 1711; and two years afterwards, he had the satisfaction to have his claim to the throne of Great Britain recognised by the treaty of Utrecht.

On the first of August, 1714, a day remarkably auspicious to the House of Brunswick, Queen Anne died; which event was kept secret from the public for some time, the privy council being at a loss how to act, till the Duke of Argyle opened the window, and made it known. This

produced an electrical effect. The populace outside vociferated, "God save King George;" and the formal proclamation immediately ensued. The Earl of Dorset was despatched to Hanover, where he found the King in his flower-garden, or, as some said, in a field of turnips. His Majesty, however, was in no haste to take possession of the throne. He left Herenhausen on the last day of August, and landed at Greenwich, with the prince, his son, on the 16th of September. On the 20th of the following month, the coronation took place, when a dreadful casualty happened by the fall of some of the scaffolding in Palace-yard, which destroyed several lives.

So great was the assemblage of people on this occasion, that the King was astonished, and said to Lady Cowper, that it put him in mind of the resurrection: "Well it may," replied she, "for it is the resurrection of England, and of all good Englishmen."

The following account of George the First was written in 1705, by Toland, who then visited the court of Hanover, as the secret agent of the whig party:—

"The Elector George Louis was born in the year 1660. He is a middle-sized, well-proportioned man, of a genteel address and good appearance. He is not much addicted to any diversion except hunting. He is reserved, speaks little, but judiciously. He understands our constitution the least of any foreigner I ever knew; and

though he is well versed in the art of war, and of invincible courage, having often exposed his person to great dangers in Hungary, in the Morea, on the Rhine, and in Flanders, yet he is naturally of very peaceable inclinations. He is a perfect man of business, exactly regular in the economy of his resources, reads all despatches himself at first hand, and writes most of his own letters. I need give no more particular proof of his frugality in laying out the public money, than that all the expenses of his court (as to eating, drinking, fire and candles, and the like) are duly paid every Saturday night. The officers of his army receive their pay every month, as likewise his envoys in every part of Europe; and all the officers of the household, with the rest that are on the civil list, are cleared off every half-year."

The King had such an imperfect knowledge of the English language, that the only method of communication between him and his ministers who could not speak French or German, was in bad Latin. On his arrival, he said to his council, that as he knew very little of the constitution and laws of the country, he should put himself entirely in their hands, and be directed by them; "in which case," said he, "you will be answerable for every thing I do."

The first time Sir Peter King, then Recorder of London, attended the levee, His Majesty said, "As you,

from your office, must have much local information of London, and a perfect acquaintance with the good citizens, to whom I am at present a stranger, I think it necessary to make a statement of my principles:—I never forsake a friend; I will endeavour to do justice to every body; and I fear nobody.”

But, unfortunately, however upright might be his own intentions, the King was made by his ministers to sanction many harsh and cruel measures.

The highland chiefs sent up, immediately after the accession of the King, a declaration of loyal attachment, but the cabinet kept it from their master; which so irritated the clans, that a rebellion broke out the next year. This was not all; for the ministers even went so far as to insult some of the first nobility. Among these was the Duke of Somerset, a man whose loftiness of spirit made his name proverbial for pride. Soon after the arrival of the King, the duke accepted the office of master of the horse, and he continued in high favor at court, till a circumstance occurred which induced him to give up the place. The government, apprehensive of an insurrection in favor of the Pretender, as the son of James the Second was called, issued general warrants for taking up suspicious persons. Among the rest was the celebrated Sir William Wyndham, the friend of Bolingbroke; but as the baronet had married the daughter

of the Duke of Somerset, it was thought respectful to acquaint his grace with the intention of laying a restraint upon his son-in-law, to prevent his embarking in a rebellion. The duke was much hurt at this intimation, and being confident that Sir William had no such designs, he pledged himself as a security for his loyalty; in consequence of which, he obtained the royal promise that the baronet should not be molested. Notwithstanding this, the ministry, without any regard to their master's honor, caused Sir William to be seized in the country, and committed him to the Tower. The duke, on being informed of this act, immediately hastened to court, and resigned his post, saying, "that he scorned to serve a master who had the meanness to break his word." In vain did the King offer an apology, and declare his entire ignorance of what had happened: the duke would listen to no excuses; but retired, and caused the regalia to be conveyed in a cart to the palace gate, where the whole was thrown out as common rubbish.

Though the rebellion was soon suppressed, the severities inflicted upon all persons who were barely suspected of an attachment to the exiled family, served to irritate the people, and to increase the number of the disaffected. A compositor, only nineteen years old, was hanged at Tyburn, for no other crime than printing a seditious pamphlet. An exemplary and learned divine, for writing

a tract against the dissenters, suffered this extraordinary sentence—"to pay a fine of five hundred pounds to the King; to remain in prison three years; to find sureties of five hundred pounds each, and to be bound himself in one thousand pounds, for his good behaviour during life; to be twice publicly whipped; to be degraded, and stripped of his gown by the hands of the executioner;" which savage judgment was inflicted to the utmost extent, and the poor man died in Newgate.

Such was the mercy, and respect for liberty, displayed by the whigs, when in possession of power; and how much they contrived to abuse the trust reposed in them by the King, appears from the following remarkable circumstance, related by Bishop Newton:—

When Dr. Younger was abroad upon his travels, he passed some time at the court of Hanover, where he was well received and esteemed by the Princess Sophia and her family, before they came to England. At the accession of George the First, Dr. Younger was Dean of Salisbury, residentiary of St. Paul's, and deputy clerk of the closet, in which station he had served under Queen Anne, and was continued by her successor. The King was very glad to renew his acquaintance with him; and in the closet, as the doctor stood waiting behind his chair, His Majesty would often turn and talk with him; and the more as

Dr. Younger did, what few could do, converse with the King in German. The King used to call him his "Little Dean," and was so condescending and gracious to him, that he was looked upon in some measure as a favorite, and likely to rise to higher preferment. This was by no means agreeable to the ministers; for Dr. Younger was reputed to be what they called a tory; and accordingly, an official letter was sent to dismiss him, the King having no farther occasion for his service. It was not long before he was missed by the King, who asked what was become of his Little Dean. It was answered that he was dead. "Dead!" said the King; "I am very sorry for it, as I intended to have done something for him." This the ministers understood well enough, and therefore had removed him out of the way. Such an imposition, one would think, could hardly have been put upon the sovereign of any country, and least of all in this. It did not, however, escape detection; for, some time after, the King went on a progress into the west of England, and among other places visited Salisbury, where in the cathedral, seeing the dean, he called him eagerly, and said, "My Little Dean, I am glad to see you alive: they told me you were dead; but where have you been all this while, and what has prevented my seeing you as usual?" The dean mentioned the letter of dismissal which he had received, and said he thought that it would ill become him

after that to give His Majesty any farther trouble. "Oh!" said the King warmly, "I see how the matter is; but," with an oath, "you shall be the first bishop that I will make for all this." It happened, however, that Dr. Younger, being advanced in years, died before any bishop; so that he never obtained the good effect of the King's gracious intentions.

Another eminent divine, who was more of a politician than Dean Younger, played his cards with such dexterity as to secure preferment, without offending either the ministers or the King. This was Dr. Nicholas Lockyer, who in the former part of his life had been chaplain to the factory at Hamburgh, from whence he made it a rule to go once a year to pay his respects at the court of Hanover; by which means he became very intimate with the elector, who knew how to temper the cares of royalty with the pleasures of private life, and commonly, after his accession to the English throne, had a small party of select friends to spend the evening with him. His Majesty seeing Dr. Lockyer one day at court, spoke to the Duchess of Ancaster, who was generally one of the party, and desired her to ask the doctor to visit him that evening. When, however, the company assembled, the doctor was not there; and the King asked the duchess if she had spoken to him as he had desired. "Yes," she replied, "but the doctor presents his humble duty to Your Majesty, and begs to be excused at present, as he is soliciting some

preferment from your ministers, and he fears it might be an obstacle to him if it should be known that he had the honor of keeping Your Majesty company." The King laughed heartily, and said he believed the doctor was in the right. Shortly afterwards, Dr. Lockyer kissed the King's hand for the deanery of Peterborough; and while he was raising himself from kneeling, the King stooped forward, and whispered in his ear, "Well now, doctor, you will not be afraid to come in an evening: I would have you come this evening."

The following curious anecdote, related by Cibber, is a proof of the shrewdness of George the First. He was fond of Shakspeare's play of Henry the Eighth, which he caused to be acted before him at Hampton Court, by a private party of comedians, under the direction of Sir Richard Steele. At this performance, the King had the play in his hand, in French; and during the representation he was observed to be remarkably attentive, particularly in that scene where the monarch directs Wolsey to send letters of indemnity to the refractory counties; which injunction the crafty cardinal thus communicates in a whisper to his secretary Cromwell:—

" A word with you !

Let there be letters writ to every shire,
Of the King's grace and pardon. The griev'd commons
Hardly conceive of me. Let it be noised
That *through our intercession* this revokement
And pardon comes."

The King upon this could not help smiling at the cunning of the minister, in filching from his master the credit of a good action, though the cardinal himself was the very author of the evil which occasioned public complaint. Turning to the Prince of Wales, who sat by him, he said, "You see, George, what you have one day to expect: an English minister will be an English minister in every age."

At the first masked ball given in honor of him after his arrival, a lady, whose name was not known, followed the King as though he had been a stranger, and invited him to drink a glass of wine with her at one of the beaufets; which challenge he readily accepted. The lady, filling a bumper, said, "Here, mask, the Pretender's health;" and filling another glass, handed it to the King, who received it pleasantly, and said, "Madam, I drink with all my heart to the health of all unfortunate princes."

On another occasion, while he was travelling, the coach broke down, and he was obliged to stop some time at the house of a country gentleman, till the accident was repaired. It happened that the owner of the mansion was a zealous adherent to the exiled family; and in the parlour where the King sat, was a portrait of the Pretender, placed in a most honorable situation. The gentleman was much confused when he saw the King fix his eyes

upon the picture; but His Majesty relieved him by saying, "Upon my honor, it is an excellent likeness; and a performance that does credit to the artist."

When Lord Nithisdale made his escape from the Tower, in female disguise, on the night preceding the day intended for his execution, the lieutenant hastened to court, in a great trepidation, to communicate what had happened. The King, observing from his manner that he was under a terrible alarm, asked what was the matter; and being told that Lord Nithisdale had got out of the Tower, no one knew how, "Oh, is that all?" replied His Majesty; "I think he was much in the right of it; so you may make yourself perfectly easy." Lady Nithisdale, however, who effected the escape of her husband, tells a different story.

Notwithstanding the ridicule which the whigs had incurred by their foolish impeachment of Dr. Sacheverel in the late reign, they had so little discretion as to propose another prosecution which would have been equally disgraceful. Dr. Trapp, a popular preacher in the city, was said to have made some very strong and unseasonable reflections upon the reigning family, in a sermon delivered at St. Paul's, on the 30th of January; which being reported to the Earl of Sunderland, president of the council, he waited upon the King to inform him of it, saying that it was proper to put a stop to such insolence.

His Majesty inquired the character of the doctor ; “ Oh, sir,” said his lordship, “ he is the most violent, hot, positive fellow in the kingdom ; and so extremely wilful, that I believe he would very readily be a martyr.” The King answered, “ Is he so ? then I am resolved to disappoint him ;” and never would hear a word more of the complaint.

Nothing seems to have hurt the King more than the trouble which he experienced in obtaining supplies. Bred up in customs totally different from those of the English constitution in relation to government, he could ill endure a dependence upon the will of Parliament for the raising of money. Hence he oftentimes complained to his friends that he was “ come to England to be a begging King ;” adding, that he “ thought it hard to find such difficulty in obtaining subsidies which were to be applied solely for the benefit of the nation.”

But though, from a want of knowing the character of the country which he governed, he had comparatively little personal weight in England, his influence was considerable abroad, and all the states of Europe paid the tribute of respect to his talents as a politician ; in which capacity he supported the glory of the nation with vigor, and strengthened its interests on the continent by his alliances with the great powers.

Dr. Savage, who was called by his friends the Aris-

tippus of his day, coming to court after his return from making the tour of Europe with the Earl of Salisbury, the King entered into discourse with him about his travels. Among other questions, he asked the doctor how long he staid at Rome. The doctor said he was there near two months. "Why," said the King, "you was there long enough, how came you not to convert the pope?" "Because, sir," replied the doctor, "I had nothing better to offer him:" at which His Majesty laughed heartily.

The King was temperate in his mode of living, though fond of delicacies, and particularly of peaches stewed in brandy, which he first tasted on a visit to old Lady St. John, at Battersea. In consequence of the pleasure which he expressed at this novelty, her ladyship regularly furnished him with a sufficient quantity to last the year round, he eating two every night.

This little present the King took very kindly; but one season proved fatal to fruit-trees, so that Lady St. John could send His Majesty only half the quantity, desiring him to use economy, for they would barely serve him during the year at one each night. Being thus forced by necessity to retrench, His Majesty said he would eat two every other night. This resolution he carried into effect; and he valued himself more upon the act of mortification to which he thus submitted, than if he had yielded to the temptation of taking one every night; and it was un-

doubtedly an excellent compromise between frugality and epicurism.

The King had a general knowledge of literature, and was so much attached to Leibnitz that he entered warmly into the controversy between him and Sir Isaac Newton, by appointing a commission to examine their respective claims to the discovery of fluxions, the result of which was so honorable to our illustrious countryman.

Leibnitz, however, had the credit of being the first to throw light on the early history of the House of Brunswick, and its Italian origin, which induced the Elector of Hanover to enter into a correspondence with the Princes of Este, for the purpose of exploring the archives of their family. The consequence of this was, that Muratori was employed to examine the ducal library at Modena; and hence arose from his labors the "ORIGINES GUELFICÆ, or the Antiquities of the Houses of Este and Brunswick."

I cannot pretend to know whether this monarch, in his regard for Leibnitz, embraced the philosophic doctrines of his ingenious countryman; but that he was a fatalist appears from the account of an historian who was personally acquainted with him, and who says that he carried the principle of destiny so far as to put faith in signs, dreams and omens, which the good women who

accompanied him in his campaigns, declared were very propitious.

The King had a favorite servant, called Mahomet. This man was taken prisoner by the elector, when commanding the Imperialists in the wars against the Turks. Mahomet was an Albanian by birth, but became a Lutheran upon principle, and used to attend the German chapel in the Savoy regularly. Every Saturday he visited one or other of the prisons in the metropolis, for the purpose of releasing a debtor, provided the sum for which the poor man was confined did not exceed the finances of the philanthropist. Of the influence of Mahomet over his royal master, the following story is a proof:—

When the King visited Winchester, as it happened to be on the Saturday, all the country people came into the town the next morning, expecting to see His Majesty go to the cathedral.

The corporation also looked for the honor of attending the monarch to church; but when assembled in all formality, they were told that the King did not intend to leave his apartment that day. This was a sad disappointment; and the mayor frankly told some of the lords in waiting, that serious consequences might follow. The lords spoke to the King, who still refused to stir out of doors. In this dilemma, application was made to

Mahomet, who saw the matter in a proper light, and undertook to bring his master to reason. Accordingly he entered the room, and says, "You go to church to-day?" "No," replies His Majesty. "What! you no go to church! The people all come to see you go to church. They think you have got two heads. You go to church, and shew them that you have but one." The King laughed, dressed himself, and went to the cathedral, amidst the cheers of the population.

There is a fine portrait of Mahomet in the palace of Kensington. He died in 1726.

George the First was fond of music, and, to engage Handel in his service at Hanover, gave him a pension of fifteen hundred crowns a year, and the place of master of the chapel. Afterwards Handel obtained leave of absence for twelve months; but being pleased with England, he never returned to Hanover. In consequence of this delinquency, when Queen Anne died, the musician did not dare to go to court. However, his old friend Baron Kilmanseg contrived a method of reinstating him in the royal favor. The King was persuaded to form a party on the water: Handel was apprised of the design, and advised to prepare some music for the occasion. It was performed under his own direction; and His Majesty, whose pleasure was as great as his surprise, asked whose music it was. The baron then produced Handel as one

desirous of making atonement for his offence. His submission was accepted, and the pension was not only renewed, but enlarged.

When Marshal Broglie was in England, at the beginning of this reign, a debate arose in conversation, between the King and him, concerning the disposition of the troops at the battle of Ramillies, and likewise respecting the behaviour of the French household troops on that occasion. His Majesty insisted that those troops were totally thrown into disorder, and fled. The marshal took the liberty of differing from the King, by saying that they behaved with their usual bravery, and were of infinite service in covering the retreat of the army. The King appealed to General Cadogan, who was present in that battle, and he gave his opinion in favor of His Majesty. But the marshal still said, "I must really beg leave to dissent from your lordship, because I was upon the field during the whole action, and I never saw troops behave with greater intrepidity in my life." The general replied pleasantly, "I grant what your excellency says to be true; but I was upon the field *after the action*, and I never saw troops in a greater panic, since I knew what it was to pursue an enemy." The marshal was sensibly mortified, and His Majesty perceiving him to look grave, took occasion, upon the approach of some ladies, to turn the discourse into gallantry.

The death of George I. was awfully sudden. On the 3rd of June, 1727, he embarked at Greenwich; landed at Vaert in Holland on the 7th, and proceeded from thence to Utrecht by land. He arrived at Delden on the 9th, to all appearance in perfect health; and after supper took part of a melon, which it was supposed disagreed with him. Early the next morning he set out on his journey, but had not travelled far before he felt some griping pains, which increased to such a degree, that on reaching Lindau, he could eat nothing. Upon this he was bled, and took some medicine. Being exceedingly anxious to reach Hanover, he ordered his people to drive on with all speed, but soon became lethargic; and, falling into the arms of Baron Fabricius, the only person with him in the carriage, he said, "*Je suis mort.*" He continued, however, in this state till he arrived at Osnaburg, where his brother resided, in whose arms he breathed his last about midnight.

George I. had, as before observed, by the unfortunate Sophia Dorothea of Zell, two children:—George, who succeeded him; and Sophia, wife of Frederic William, King of Prussia. She was a woman of considerable talents and distinguished virtue, who patronized men of letters, and had a fine taste for the arts; in all which she was a perfect contrast to her brutal husband, who had so little regard for decorum and humanity, that he frequently

abused her with foul language, in the presence of his court, and sometimes even proceeded to blows.

Besides his legitimate issue, George I. had two natural daughters, who, as well as their mother, were ennobled by patent. One of these daughters married the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield, and the other Lord Howe.

VII.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS, the only son of George I., was born at Hanover, November 10, 1683. At the age of fifteen he became, by the death of his grandfather, Electoral Prince of Brunswick-Lunenbourg. In 1699, he accompanied the Duke of Zell on a visit to King William, at Loo in Holland, and was received by that monarch with the most affectionate tenderness.

On the 22nd of June, 1705, he married Carolina Wilhelmina Dorothea, daughter of John Frederic, Margrave of Bamberg-Anspach, by Louisa, daughter of George, Duke of Saxe-Eisenach, and Janet, Countess of Sayn. On the 4th of April, 1706, he was elected a Knight of the Garter; and in the same year created Duke and Marquis of Cambridge, Earl of Milford Haven, Viscount Northallerton, and Baron Tewkesbury. On the 22nd of June, 1708, he joined the army of the Duke of Marlborough, and was received with the greatest respect

by the officers and soldiers. On the 11th of July was fought the battle of Oudenarde; when, to use the words of a well-informed writer of that period, “the electoral Prince of Hanover, inflamed with military ardor, and in whom not only the hopes of Great Britain, but every virtue was united, came now to make his first campaign, and acquaint himself with the British customs, and the art of war. No sooner were the bridges prepared and fixed, than the prince, through a greatness of soul peculiar to himself, having obtained the Duke of Marlborough’s leave, passed the Scheldt with great resolution, among the foremost; and placing himself sometimes at the head of his father’s horse, and sometimes of Brigadier Sabine’s battalion, he, with incomparable valor, overthrew the enemy, which were posted on the other side to prevent the confederates from passing the river. For some time the engagement was without any considerable advantage on either side, and the confederates had long sustained the assault of a large body of the enemy. At length the Duke of Marlborough sent them a reinforcement of fresh troops; but, either through their marching too slowly, or the difficulty of passing the river, it so happened, that the whole glory of the first attack was ascribed to the Prince of Hanover and his party. As soon as the French perceived our colors and standards advancing, they began to take possession of the rising

grounds: and having sent away their baggage on both sides, the battle was continued a long time, and the enemy were vanquished.

“The time of this engagement was of great importance to the confederates, for their own safety, and their victory over the enemy: for the French were not in any good order, nor under any certain command; insomuch that they had hardly drawn up their army that day, but fought in loose bodies. When, about three o’clock, they were drawing off their forces from the left wing to the right, Major-General Cadogan, improving that opportunity, ordered Brigadier Sabine to attack seven of the enemy’s battalions in the village of Heysem, while the Count de Bulau, who commanded the Hanoverians, and Major-General Rantzau, fell upon their horse, which were marching along the plain, and drove them into the hedges. This was a very dangerous attempt; but the youthful vigor and magnanimity of the Prince of Hanover, and the confidence he had in the happy event, contributed very much both to the trial and success of it. Three of these battalions were taken in the town; the rest escaped by flight. The enemy’s horse also, being routed by Bulau and Rantzau, turned their backs, leaving behind them many of their men, and twelve standards, and fled to the neighbouring hills. In the mean while, Major-General Cadogan being sent out with a few

squadrons and battalions, withstood all the force of the enemy, and kept possession of the hedges with great resolution.

“The Prince of Hanover, by his presence, inspired the soldiers with high spirits; and, regardless of all dangers, threw himself among the thickest of the enemy. When his horse was killed, he mounted another, and exhorting the soldiers, advanced again with Colonel Luschki’s squadron; and though Luschki was slain close by his side, yet was he not afraid, but led on the squadron himself; and now, inflamed with hopes of victory, he broke through and routed the strongest body of the enemy’s forces. On that day this excellent young prince discovered such courage, as no man living ought to forget, and as all posterity will never surpass. And in England it was said he had in this battle made his fortune equal to his virtue.”*

The Prince of Hanover may truly be said to have fought for the crown on this memorable day; since he was opposed to the son of James the Second, who served under the Duke of Burgundy; but, if we are to give credit to the enemies of the House of Stuart, he did not gain much credit in a battle on which in a great degree depended the fortunes of his family. At this time,

* Cunningham’s History of Great Britain.

certainly, the succession to the British throne was in a problematical state, for the Queen was known to lean in favor of her brother-in-law; and as the Elector of Hanover was then separated, but not divorced from his wife, there were grounds enough to encourage the hopes of the exiled family and their friends. The victory of Oudenarde, and the prominent figure which the electoral prince made in it, tended, however, to animate the confidence of those who were attached to the Hanoverian interests; and had not the Queen continued to oppose the measure with all her spirit, his Highness would have been called over to reside here, in order to improve himself in the knowledge of the constitution, and to become familiarized to the language and manners of the people.

Little more is known of his private life, till the accession of his father to the throne, when he came to England with him, and being declared Prince of Wales, took his place at the council board. The princess his wife, and two of her children, followed, and took up their residence at St. James's palace, where they all lived, till her Royal Highness was delivered of a son, in 1717, who was named George William, and died three months afterwards.

On the very day of the christening, a violent quarrel arose between the King and the prince, which proceeded to such a height that the latter was ordered to quit the palace, with his family, the next morning. The cause

of this bitter contention was never exactly known, but it went to such a length, that within a month, the King signified his pleasure to all the peers and peeresses of Great Britain and Ireland, and to all privy councillors and their wives, that if any of them went to pay their respects to the Prince and Princess of Wales, they should not come into His Majesty's presence.

On the 15th of April, 1721, the princess was delivered of another son at Leicester House; but the christening was so very private, on account of the royal displeasure, that none of the nobility were present. This was the first of the family born in England, that lived to maturity; and he afterwards added considerably to the splendor of his house as William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland.

When the intelligence arrived of the death of George the First, his son and the princess were at Richmond, to which place Sir Robert Walpole, the minister, hastened with the utmost speed, and under no little anxiety; for he had lost a good master, and was going to those who he well knew had a personal dislike to him. The minister had indeed grossly offended, both in a manner and under circumstances that rendered it very unlikely that it would ever be forgot or forgiven. At the time when the difference between the late King and the prince was at the height, a negociation was going on between some of the members of the opposition, and the ministry; in the

course of which, Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath, took upon him to ask Sir Robert Walpole whether any terms had been made for the prince: "Yes," said Sir Robert, with a sneer, "he is to go to court again, and will have his drums and his guards, and such fine things." Being farther asked whether the prince would be left regent in case the King left England, the answer was, "No, why should he? He does not deserve it. We have done too much for him already; and if it were to be done again, he should not have so much."

The treatment of the princess was still more coarse. During the schism among the whigs, Sir Robert, who was the leading man of his party, objected to the proposed plan of forming a junction with the prince, observing that, "however much they might depend upon his Royal Highness, there was no relying upon the sincerity of his fat bitch of a wife." This was reported, with exaggerations of a more offensive description, to the princess, who had so complete an ascendancy over her husband, that every one who knew of the affair made sure of the downfall of the minister, in the event of any thing happening to the King. Sir Robert was well aware of the error he had committed, and of the advantages likely to be taken of his imprudence; but he had address enough to ward off the danger by an appeal to a principle that he knew would subdue even royal resentment. His scheme suc-

ceeded, at the very critical time when it was generally expected he would be covered with disgrace. Knowing that it was the design of Sir Spencer Compton, his intended successor, to propose a dower of sixty thousand pounds a year for the Queen, he contrived to let Her Majesty know, while he waited at Richmond, that if he continued in office, he would secure her a settlement of one hundred thousand pounds, and enlarge the civil list besides. This had the proper effect, and Caroline said to the negociator, "Let Sir Robert know that the fat bitch has forgiven him." Accordingly, she seized the first opportunity of persuading her husband, that, considering how well Sir Robert had served the late King, she thought he would be equally useful in the present reign. The hint was well taken, and, to the surprise of the political world, the old minister, instead of being displaced, shone forth with increased splendor.

Soon after the accession of George the Second, he was desirous of extending his alliance with the House of Prussia, by a double marriage between their respective children. Accordingly, Sir Charles Hotham was sent over as minister plenipotentiary, to propose a union between Frederic Prince of Wales, and the Princess Royal of Prussia; and another between the Prince Royal of Prussia and the second daughter of the King of England. His Prussian Majesty's answer was, "that

he would consent to the marriage of his Prince Royal with our Princess, if George did not insist upon a double union, on the terms proposed; but that if he did, he would not consent to either one or the other; for he thought he had as much right to expect our Princess Royal for his eldest son, as our King had to expect his Princess Royal for the Prince of Wales." The two Kings being equally obstinate, and equally passionate, there was an end of the negociation, but not of the difference.

A dispute relative to Mecklenburg happening nearly at the same time between the two monarchs, tended to heighten the animosity caused by the former quarrel.

Levies of men were forcibly raised in the Hanoverian dominions by Prussian emissaries, and these proceedings occasioned retaliations on the part of Hanover. But after all, the two monarchs felt themselves more offended in their private than their public character. Being both men of fiery temper, they at last agreed to settle their disputes by a personal combat.

King George made choice of General Sutton, afterwards Lord Lexington, for his second, and Frederic appointed Colonel Dersheim to attend him to the field. The territory of Hildesheim was pitched upon for the place of meeting; His Britannic Majesty being then at Hanover, and the King of Prussia at Saltzdaahl, near

Brunswick. Baron Borch, the Prussian minister at the court of London, having been dismissed from thence in a very abrupt manner, repaired to his master at the last-mentioned place; and finding him in an outrageous passion, did not think proper to dissuade him from his purpose. On the contrary, he affected to approve of the measure, and even offered to carry the challenge; but about an hour afterwards, coming into the King's apartment, he said, "Sire, I allow that Your Majesty's quarrel is not to be terminated in any other way than by a duel, but as you are just recovered from a dangerous illness, and your health is still very precarious, should you be taken with a relapse the day before the interview, or perhaps on the very spot, what would the world say, and how would the King of England boast? How many scandalous constructions would be put upon the accident? What an odious suspicion might it not bring on Your Majesty's courage? These things considered, do not you think, Sire, it would be better to delay the meeting for a fortnight?"

The King yielded reluctantly to this reasoning, and meanwhile the ministers on both sides succeeded, through the mediation of the states of Holland, in effecting a pacification, though not a restoration of friendship.

The education of George the Second had been much

neglected, and he had no taste either for literature or the arts.

On being told that Lord Hervey was the author of some fine poetry, he said to him the next time he came to court, "They do tell me that you write *varse*; that is very wrong for a nobleman; you should leave writing *varse* to little Mr. Pope, for it is his trade."

At another time, when some piece of Pope's was spoken of in high terms, the King said, "Pshaw! why does that man fool away his time in making *varse*? why does he not write *pross*, which every body may understand?"

His judgment of the drama was no less contemptible. When he went to see Garrick play Richard the Third, he took not the least notice of that great performer, though the latter exerted himself to the utmost, to gain the royal attention. But when a low actor came upon the stage, in the costume of the lord mayor, the King took off his hat, and made a bow, saying to the nobleman next him, "That is the lord mayor of London; I do always pay my respects to the lord mayor!"

This was said loud enough to be heard all around; and while some laughed, and others stared, Garrick in a low tone said, "What a pity he does not understand English!"

Of painting and engraving, his ideas were equally contracted. When Hogarth had finished his fine print

of the March of the Guards to Finchley, he carried a proof to St. James's, thinking to obtain permission to dedicate it to His Majesty. Lord Chesterfield, and others of the nobility, were quite delighted with it; but as soon as the King saw it, he flew into a passion, and asked Hogarth "how he dared to ridicule his brave guards?" then threw him a guinea, and told him to take away his damned picture.

The disappointed artist, out of revenge, then dedicated the print to the King of Prussia, Frederic the Great, as a judge and patron of the arts.

His Queen, on the other hand, affected the philosophical character. It was at her desire, when Princess of Wales, that Newton undertook his "Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms." She also patronized the great Dr. Clarke, and his friend, the honest enthusiast, William Whiston. Savage, the poet, was another of her pensioners; but with more generosity than judgment, she took poor Stephen Duck under her protection, and from thrashing in a barn, put him into the church.

Queen Caroline was fond of literary conversation, to enjoy which, she gave a dinner once a week to select parties. At these entertainments, every thing was conducted upon the principle of equality.

At one time, Dr. Bentley having been helped to some custard pudding, found it so hot that he threw what he

had taken back again upon the plate. On his attempting an apology, the Queen interrupted him, saying, "Make no excuses, doctor; 'tis well it's no worse: had you been a fool, you would have burnt your mouth."

The Queen once said to Whiston, "I hear you are good at telling persons their faults. Now, as every body has some fault or other, I should like to know what you have observed wrong in me." Whiston would have evaded answering the question; but the Queen was not to be denied. "Why then, Madam," said Whiston, "the people complain, that you talk to the King when at chapel, instead of minding the service." "I believe," answered Her Majesty, "there is some truth in what you say. But now tell me of another fault." "No, Madam," said the old monitor; "let me see you mend the first, before I mention another."

The clerk of the closet to the Queen, Dr. Isaac Madox, afterwards Bishop of Worcester, was a very extraordinary man. He was first apprenticed to a pastry-cook, and next became a student in one of the dissenting academies. Not liking that persuasion, he got ordained, and from a curacy in the city, rose to the above situation in the royal household. He had not been long there, when he began to make his observations on the health of the principal dignitaries, that he might take his measures for promotion in time. Finding that the Dean

of Bath and Wells was not likely to hold out long, he placed a trusty person near at hand, to let him know when the dean departed. The Queen had a custom every afternoon, if the weather permitted, of walking alone in her private garden; at which time no person was allowed to break in upon her meditations. It was at this critical moment, that the messenger brought to Madox the welcome news of the death of the Dean of Bath and Wells. Time pressed, and Madox, though he knew it was hazarding the royal displeasure, resolved to throw himself upon the Queen's goodness. He knocked at the door, and Her Majesty on opening it, asked what he wanted. He told his tale, requested forgiveness for his intrusion, and concluded by intreating that she would obtain for him the vacant deanery by an immediate application to the King. Provoked at the interruption of her contemplations, she shut the door hastily, saying, "I don't know, Madox, whether I shall or not." After taking another turn, however, her passion subsided; she went and got the promise desired. Scarcely was this object attained, when the Bishop of London arrived to recommend a friend of his for the deanery. The King told him it was disposed of; "Indeed," said the prelate; "why, the dean died only a few hours ago! May I take the liberty of asking who has been so quick in his application?" When told that it was Dr. Madox, the bishop

said, "Ah, he is an enterprising man." This was true, for he laid down three rules to himself:—1. To lose nothing for want of asking. 2. Not to take a denial. 3. To solicit for no one but himself.

Some time afterwards, the bishopric of St. Asaph fell vacant, upon which the doctor applied to his good friend the Queen, and with the same success. But when he asked the royal permission to retain the deanery also, on account of his zeal for whig principles, the King, who saw through his pretext, refused his consent. Ultimately he became Bishop of Worcester, and died in 1759.

Another clerical favorite of Queen Caroline was the celebrated Dr. Berkeley. This great man and Dr. Clarke, Rector of St. James's, used to hold disputations on metaphysical questions in Her Majesty's apartment, where Bishop Sherlock supported Berkeley, and Bishop Hoadley took the side of Clarke. For Dr. Berkeley the Queen obtained the deanery of Derry, and afterwards the bishopric of Cloyne.

To this excellent woman the Church of England was indebted, for the honor of enrolling in her hierarchy those two valuable ornaments of letters and religion, Butler and Secker. When the former was preacher at the Rolls, he became a frequent visitor of the Queen, who took as great a pleasure in his conversation as she did in the

perusal of his incomparable book on "The Analogy of Natural and Revealed Religion."

After his preferment to a rectory in the north of England, the Queen missed his company, and asked Archbishop Blackburne "whether Dr. Butler was dead?" "No, Madam," said he; "but he is buried." Shortly after Dr. Butler was sent for, and made clerk of the closet to the Queen. In 1738, he was made Bishop of Bristol, and lastly of Durham.

Though the Queen had such an ascendancy over her husband, her discretion equalled her influence; and by avoiding all political matters and party connections, she gave general satisfaction to the nation. She died of a mortification in the bowels, at the age of fifty-five, November 20th, 1737. Her surviving issue were—

1. Frederick, Prince of Wales. 2. William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland. 3. Anne, Princess of Orange. 4. Louisa, Queen of Denmark. 5. Mary, wife of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel. 6. Amelia. 7. Carolina. 8. Elizabeth. The three last died unmarried.

It was considered very extraordinary, that the eldest of this family should be kept out of the kingdom till the 3rd of December, 1728, when, being of age, it was deemed necessary that he should be created Prince of Wales, and take his seat in the House of Peers. No satisfactory reason was ever assigned for this conduct;

but it seems clear from subsequent circumstances, that the father was afraid of his son's popularity and spirit. It is not a little remarkable, however, that every one of the first three kings of this house, lived on bad terms with the heir-apparent to the throne.

On the 27th of April, 1736, Prince Frederick was married to the Princess Augusta, sister of the reigning Duke of Saxe-Gotha. This alliance, which ought to have produced perfect harmony in the royal family and the kingdom, had a contrary effect.

At the next meeting of Parliament, the King sent a message to both Houses, recommending a settlement of £50,000 a year upon the Prince of Wales. Upon this it was moved in the Commons by Mr. Pulteney, and in the upper House by Lord Carteret, that the income should be £100,000, being the same as the King had when Prince of Wales. The motion was negatived, as also was that for settling a jointure of £100,000 upon the princess, in case of her becoming a widow, though no more than what had been granted to the Queen herself in the late reign.

Such was the parsimony of George the Second, and such was the baseness of his minister, Walpole, after increasing the Queen's income, as well as the civil list, to gratify their Majesties, and to secure himself in place.

From this time an entire estrangement took place

between the prince and his father, which even the birth of a daughter, on the 31st of July, 1737, had not the effect of healing. The princess was named Augusta; but, though the King and Queen condescended to be sponsors, neither of them appeared in person at the baptismal ceremony.

This unfeeling conduct was followed by treatment still more cruel. On the 10th of September the same year, the King, in imitation of his father, sent a message to his son, saying that he should leave St. James's, with all his family, when it could be done without prejudice or inconvenience to the princess, who should have the care of the child for the present, till a proper time came to consider of her education. Upon this, the prince removed immediately to a small house which he purchased at Kew.

Two months after this the Queen died, without seeing her eldest son, or the Princess of Wales; so subservient was Caroline to the will of her husband, even in death; which gave occasion to some people to say, that it was impossible she could die of an intestinal disease, for "that she had no bowels."

The King, however, shewed by his behaviour, that he had none; for on the 27th of February following, he caused it to be declared, "that no person whatever who went to pay their court to the Prince or Princess of

Wales, should be admitted into His Majesty's presence at any of the royal palaces."

On the 24th of May, or according to the new style, the 4th of June, 1738, the princess was delivered of a son at Norfolk House, in St. James's-square. As the infant came at seven months, and was not expected to live, the private baptism took place the same day, when he was named GEORGE. On the 21st of June, however, the ceremony of a public baptism was performed by Dr. Secker, Bishop of Oxford, when the further names of William Frederic were added to that of George. The King, his grandfather, the King of Sweden, and the Queen of Prussia, were sponsors, but all by proxy.

On the 14th of March, 1739, another son was born; and on the 11th of April, he was named by the same bishop, Edward Augustus. In the following reign, he became Duke of York. While the family expenditure of the prince thus increased, without any addition to his income, a royal message was sent to Parliament, calling for £15,000 a year to the Duke of Cumberland, and £24,000 a year to four of the princesses, none of whom had any incumbrance whatever. This harsh treatment only made the prince more popular; and in proportion as he was oppressed by his father, he was beloved by the people. That he merited the national esteem, the following among many anecdotes will shew:—

In 1735, the Quakers applied to Parliament for relief from prosecutions on account of tithes. Accordingly, a bill was brought in to enable two justices of the peace to determine all controversies for tithes wherein Quakers were the defendants. While this measure was pending, a deputation of the Society of Friends waited upon the prince, to solicit his interest in their behalf. His answer was, "that, as a friend to toleration, he wished them success; but that for himself, he never gave a vote in Parliament, and it did not become his station to influence others, but to leave them entirely to their own unbiassed judgment, and conscientious principles."

This reply so struck the body of Friends, that Andrew Pitt, who spoke in the name of the rest, said, "May it please the Prince of Wales, I am greatly affected with thy excellent notions of liberty; I am more pleased with thy answer than if thou hadst granted our request."

Sir Robert Walpole, finding his seat of power weakened, endeavoured to secure it by bringing about a re-union between the King and the prince. Accordingly, Bishop Secker and the Earl of Cholmondeley waited upon his Royal Highness with this proposal, that if he would write such a letter as it might be consistent with His Majesty's honor to receive, then the prince, and all that were in his counsels, should be kindly received at court; that £50,000 a year should be added to his income; that

£200,000 should be granted to pay his debts ; and that all his dependents should be provided for. The prince replied, that he was ready to throw himself at the feet of the King, without making any terms ; but that he would never give the least countenance to public measures while the present administration existed.

Within a few weeks after this, Walpole resigned all his places, and became Earl of Orford.

On the 16th of February, 1742, the prince had an interview with the King at St. James's, and this event produced general joy through the whole empire.

The prince and his family now resided chiefly at Leicester House ; but spent most of the summer months at Kew or Cliefden, where his Royal Highness devoted much of his time to the education of his children. Of his attention to this important part of parental duty, many interesting stories are related. The prince was fond of the arts, and among the persons patronized by him in this line was Goupy, the friend of Dr. Brooke Taylor. Goupy used to attend Leicester House at certain times, to take instructions from the prince for designs. One day when he came, Prince George, then about ten years old, was in durance behind his father's chair, for some offence. Goupy, seeing how matters stood, told his patron that he could not go on while the young prince was a captive. " Come out then, George," said the

father, "Goupy has obtained your release." To finish the tale: shortly after the accession of George III. as he was riding along the road, he met Goupy in charge of a sheriff's officer. The King eyed him, stopped, and asked how he did. The aged artist told his melancholy story, which he concluded with saying, "As I once had the honor of releasing Your Majesty from prison, I hope you will not let me, in my old age, go into one." The King ordered the debt to be paid, and then a guinea to be given weekly to Goupy as long as he lived.

If any thing were wanted to shew the sterling worth of Frederick the Prince of Wales's character, his steady friendship for the good Lord Lyttleton would alone be sufficient to stamp his moral worth.

As a patron of literary men, he stood eminently conspicuous. Among those distinguished by his bounty were Thomson, Glover, Brooke, and Lillo. The *Gustavus Vasa* of Brooke was refused a license by the Lord Chamberlain on account of the author's connexion with the prince, who in consequence headed a subscription for its publication, which produced above a thousand pounds. Lillo, when on his dying bed, directed that his posthumous tragedy of *Elmeric* should be dedicated to the prince.

On hearing that the author of *Leonidas* was embarrassed in his circumstances, he sent him, by a gentleman, a bank note for £500. "Carry this," said he, "to

Mr. Glover, as a small testimony of my esteem, and assure him that I sincerely sympathize with him in his affliction, and shall be always glad to see him."

It is said that Frederick one day stopped, in his barge, at Pope's villa; and when the poet expressed his sense of the honor done him in very courtly phrase, his Royal Highness observed, "'Tis well; but how shall we reconcile your professed love to a prince, with your rough treatment of kings, since princes will be kings in time?" Pope is stated to have made this reply—"I consider royalty, Sir, under the authorized type of the lion, who, while he is young, and before his nails are grown, may be approached and caressed with safety and pleasure."

The prince, though born in Germany, where he lived till of age, understood and spoke the English language better than any of his family. He made it his study, by reading the finest writers in prose and verse, particularly the dramatic poets, of whom Rowe was so great a favorite, that the prince was at the expense of publishing a new edition of his works, of which Dr. (afterwards Bishop) Newton was the editor.

The Prince of Wales shewed his fondness for the histrionic art, by having plays performed in his family, both at Leicester House and Cliefden. Cato, and Lady Jane Grey, were performed in 1749; and in the former, Prince George took the part of Portius, and his brother

Edward that of Juba, while Martia was represented by the Princess Augusta, and Lucia by the Princess Elizabeth.

The elder prince also spoke the prologue, which was written purposely for the occasion. These royal theatricals were managed by Quin, who also instructed the performers, in which he gave such satisfaction that the prince gave him a pension, and made him many valuable presents. Quin was the tutor of George III. in elocution; and when he heard how elegantly the young monarch delivered his maiden speech from the throne, the old actor exclaimed, with self-gratulation, "Aye, it was I that taught the boy to speak!"

That Frederick, Prince of Wales, blended patriotism with his taste for literature and the arts, appeared in his choice of Alfred as the subject of a dramatic piece, written conjointly by Thomson and Mallet, and performed at Cliefden.

The death of this amiable prince, which was occasioned by an imposthume on the lungs, March 25th, 1751, seems to have been more felt by the people than by the King his father. When the intelligence was brought to St. James's, His Majesty was at cards; upon which he rose up, and said to his mistress, Lady Yarmouth, "We must leave off, Freddy is dead."

The funeral also was conducted in a manner that

shewed the same indifference. Were it not related by Dodington, afterwards Lord Melcombe, who was present, it would hardly appear credible, that, with the exception of the prince's household, there was not a single English peer, either spiritual or temporal, present, and only one Irish lord, two sons of dukes, one baron's son, and two privy counsellors.

Frederick, Prince of Wales, died at the age of forty-four. He left by his princess, who died in 1772, aged fifty-three, nine children:

1. Augusta, who became Duchess of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel.

2. George, created Prince of Wales soon after the death of his father.

3. Edward Augustus, created Duke of York in 1760, and died unmarried, 1769.

4. Elizabeth Caroline, born Jan. 10th, 1740, died unmarried, Sept. 1st, 1759.

5. William Henry, born Nov. 25th, 1743, created Duke of Gloucester, 1764, married, 1766, Maria, Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, by whom he had three children, two of whom are now living; Sophia Matilda, born May 29th, 1773, and William Frederick, now Duke of Gloucester, born June 15th, 1776, and married his cousin, Mary, daughter of George III. by whom he has no issue.

6. Henry Frederick, born Nov. 5th, 1745; created

Duke of Cumberland, 1766; married in 1771, Anne, daughter of Lord Irnham, afterwards the Earl of Carhampton, by whom he had no issue.

7. Louisa Anne, born March 19th, 1746, died unmarried, May 21st, 1768.

8. Frederick William, born May 24th, 1750; died May 10th, 1765.

9. Caroline Matilda, a posthumous child, born July 22nd, 1751; married, Oct. 1st, 1766, the King of Denmark, by whom she had one son, the present King of that country, and a daughter. The Queen died at Zell, in 1775.

VIII.

We must now resume our anecdotes of George the Second.

The aggression of the French upon the rights of the Empress, Queen Maria Theresa, having produced a continental war, an alliance was formed for her defence, in which England, without having any real interest, took a part. The troops sent to the assistance of the Queen of Hungary were commanded by Lord Stair; but just as an engagement was about to commence, the King arrived in person, and in 1743 gained the battle of Dettingen. In the heat of the conflict, the King's horse ran away with

him; but Ensign, afterwards General Trapaud, seized the bridle, and His Majesty on alighting said, "Now, if my horse will run away, my legs shall not." In the same battle the flower of the French army, called the gens-d'armes, were attacked by the Scotch Greys, and forced to retreat.

Some years after the peace, at a review of the same regiment, the King bestowed high praise upon their appearance, and said to the French ambassador, that they were the best troops in the world. "Has Your Majesty ever seen the gens-d'armes?" rejoined his excellency. "No," quickly returned the old monarch, "but my Greys have."

The King, whenever any brilliant victory occurred, always held a levee on the occasion. At one of these, he made his appearance in the very dress which he wore near forty years before at the battle of Oudenarde. The extraordinary figure which he cut, surrounded by a circle of modern fashion, excited general astonishment, which was converted into ridicule, when these lines of Cibber's ode were sung:—

"Sure such a day was never known,
Such a King, and such a throne!"

Upon associating this couplet with the personage whom it described, the company seemed ready to burst

into a loud laugh, which one of the lords observed, and to prevent the indecorum, he clapped the verse. This had the intended effect. The singers repeated the lines, and the King took for a compliment, what was nothing but an escape from ridicule.

When the rebellion broke out in 1745, the guards were hastened home from Germany, and the King, having assembled the officers thus addressed them: "Gentlemen, you cannot be ignorant of the present precarious situation of our country; and, though I have had such recent instances of your exertions, the necessity of the times, and the knowledge I have of your hearts, induce me to call for your services again. Therefore all of you that are willing to meet the rebels, hold up your right hands; all those who feel it inconvenient so to do, hold up your left."

This appeal produced a simultaneous movement of the right hands of all in the room, which so affected the King, that he could not say a word, but bowed and withdrew.

When tranquillity was restored, the monarch held several levees and drawing-rooms, where he paid marked attention to those who had distinguished themselves by their loyalty. Among these was Mr. Thornton, a Yorkshire gentleman of fortune, who had raised at his own expense a body of horse for the national defence, though he had but just married a beautiful young lady.

With the Yorkshire Hunters, as they were called, he joined the royal army, and did eminent service at that critical period. After the battle of Culloden, he took his lady to court, where the King said, "Sir, I have been told of the services you have rendered to your country, and of your attachment to me and my family; for both of which I hold myself obliged; but I was never able to estimate the degree of the obligation under which I have been laid, till I now see the lady whom you left for my sake."

George the Second had great personal bravery, but shewed it sometimes in a very whimsical manner. During Mr. Pitt's administration, advice came one night of a landing having been effected by the French on the western coast. The minister, being confined to his room by the gout, sent his under-secretary, Mr. Wood, to the King, then at Kensington, with the letters. It was twelve o'clock at night when the secretary arrived, and the King was in bed, but immediately got up to give him audience. Mr. Wood then read the despatches, after which the King strutted about the room with large strides, and turning round, said, "Wood, what horse shall I ride to-morrow?" The secretary stared, and stammered out that His Majesty must know best; and that if he pleased, he would give proper orders at the Mews. "Aye, aye," replied the King, "You say right, you don't know, to be

sure; how should you know? But I'll tell you, I will ride my roan German horse, and put myself at the head of my brave guards directly."—Wood begged His Majesty to retire to bed, and wait for a further account, with which advice he at last complied; and when morning came, news arrived that the whole was a false alarm, occasioned by the marauding adventure of a French privateer to plunder the country people.

The King had great benevolence, mixed however with pride. About the year 1756, a clergyman, after visiting one of the royal pages, in descending the private staircase, tumbled down a whole flight of steps, and in the fall his head came in contact with a closet door. On recovering his senses, he found himself seated on the floor of a small room, attended by a neat little old gentleman, who was carefully washing his head with a towel, and fitting, with infinite exactness, pieces of sticking plaster to the cuts which he had received. For some time his surprise kept him silent, but finding that his kind physician had finished his task, and even replaced his wig, he rose up, and limping towards his benefactor, was preparing to express his thanks by a speech. This, however, was prevented by a frown, and a significant wave of the hand towards the door. The patient took the hint and retired, much wondering that humanity and hauteur should be associated in the same person. Surprise, however, ceased

when he learned afterwards that his surgeon was no other than the first personage of the realm.

The King sometimes said witty things, even when in a bad humor. Lord Albemarle having been spoken to by a Scotch nobleman, to solicit for him from the King the Green Ribband, did so; but His Majesty refused, saying, he would not bestow a favor of that kind upon a fellow who had constantly opposed the court. "Yes, Sire," said Lord Albemarle, "but he means to be more compliable for the future." "Well, well, I don't care for that, he is a puppy, and shall not have it." The King having said this, was turning to go away, when Lord Albemarle asked him what answer he should return the applicant. "Tell him he is a puppy." "Well, but, Sire, he is a puppy that is sincerely inclined to follow his master." "Aye!" retorted the King, "are you sure of that?" "Perfectly so, Sir." "Why then," said the King, "let the puppy have his collar."

The King having appointed an officer to a principal command soon after the miscarriages of the campaign in 1757, the Duke of Newcastle, who wanted to nominate another person, objected to His Majesty's choice: "Why," said the King, "what's the matter with my friend?" "Please Your Majesty, the man is mad." "Oh, is he so? I hope he will bite some of my generals, and make them mad too."

Though the duke was much employed, and rather a favorite, the King saw through his weakness, and sometimes ridiculed it. Lord Harrington, and his grace of Newcastle, the two secretaries, were perfect opposites; one being taciturn, and the other incessantly talking.

When the Marshal of Bellisle was in England on a negociation, his patience became quite exhausted by the delay which he found at the foreign office. The King one day seeing him at Hampton Court, asked him how he went on. "Upon my word, Sire," replied the marshal, "rather slowly, for I can scarcely get an answer from your secretary of state." "Poh! poh!" said the King, "I'll tell you how to remedy that; apply to my other secretary, and he'll answer you every question before you ask it."

The King for some time could not endure the name of Pitt, and when that great man was forced upon him, His Majesty treated him with repulsive hauteur. At last, however, the minister completely succeeded in removing this ill-will. News having arrived of a great victory, Mr. Pitt, though so ill of the gout as scarcely able to stand, waited upon the King in person, with the despatches. On entering the closet, His Majesty, observing the infirmity of the minister, ordered a stool for him to sit. "No, Sire," says Mr. Pitt, "it is not my duty to sit in your presence; but though I can't stand, I can kneel;"

and accordingly in that posture he read the despatches. This was highly gratifying to His Majesty's German pride, and from that time he used to say, "I do like Pitt now; he is an honest man, and I understand all that he says."

The King was very irritable, but his resentment did not last long. When Lord Chesterfield was in the cabinet, a place of great trust fell vacant, to which His Majesty recommended one person, and the Duke of Dorset another. The King espoused his friend's interest with uncommon zeal, and told the council that he would be obliged. Finding the ministers no less resolute, he got up and left the council chamber in great displeasure. As soon as he was gone, the matter came on to be debated again; when some of the members appearing inclined to yield, the majority opposed it, and said if they once gave up to the King, he would expect to have his own way at another time, and that such a precedent was not to be endured. However, in the humor in which the King then was, there now arose a difficulty in obtaining his signature; and it became a matter of question who should "bell the cat," or in other words, venture into the royal presence. The lot fell upon Lord Chesterfield. His lordship expected to find His Majesty in a very ungracious mood, and so it happened; for he was kicking his hat about the room with vehemence, as he always did when in a bad humor. The earl knew it would not do to

ask him abruptly to sign the instrument; and, therefore, instead of that, he very submissively requested to know whose names should fill up the blanks. The King answered, "The devil's if you will." "Very well," replied his lordship; "but would Your Majesty have the instrument run in the usual style, Our trusty and well-beloved counsellor, the Devil?" At this the King laughed, snatched up the pen, and put his name to the appointment, though not very agreeable to himself.

The King had good private information from the continent, and sometimes used to surprise his ministers with intelligence of which they were ignorant. One day he asked Lord Holdernessee, then secretary of state, whether he knew where the Pretender was? His lordship answered, "Upon my word, Sire, I don't exactly know; I should suppose somewhere in Italy; but I will consult my last despatches." "Poh! poh! man, don't trouble yourself about despatches: I'll tell you where he is; he now lodges at such a house in the Strand, and was last night at Lady ***'s ball. What shall we do with him?" Lord Holdernessee, surprised at this account, proposed calling a council. "No, no," said the King, "I'll have no council; this can be settled without a council. Let him stay where he is; and when the poor man has amused himself by seeing London, he will go back again." The

fact turned out exactly as he said; and the circumstance did credit to his prudence and moderation.

In his personal economy, George the Second was particularly exact about trifles. He had all his shirts, cravats, and other articles of linen, numbered; and wore them in such precise order, that if they did not correspond, he would grossly abuse the person who had the care of his wardrobe. He was also scrupulously attentive to pecuniary matters. One evening, as the page was carrying some money to be deposited in an iron chest which the King kept in a closet near his bed-room, the bag burst, and one guinea rolled under the door of a recess where some fire-wood was piled. "Have you picked up all the money?" said the King. "All but one guinea, Sir, which has rolled under the wood: but I shall find it at my return." "No, no," said the King, "we must find it now; set down that bag there, and assist me in removing the wood." The page obeyed, and to work they went: when, after toiling about twenty minutes, the guinea was found. "Well," said the King, "I think we have worked hard for this guinea; but as you seem to have labored most, take it for your pains. I would not have any thing lost."

Though the King was parsimonious, he sometimes did good-natured actions; and even when grossly imposed

upon, bore the fraud with equanimity of temper. The Duchess of Kingston, when Miss Chudleigh, having obtained a suite of apartments in the palace of Hampton Court for her mother, the monarch, at the next drawing-room, asked the daughter how her mother liked the rooms. "Oh! perfectly well, Sir," said she, "in point of situation, if the poor woman had but a bed and a few chairs to put in them." "Oh, that must be done by all means," rejoined His Majesty, and immediately gave orders for furnishing the chambers. In a few months after this, a bill was brought in from the upholsterer, as follows:—"To a bed and furniture of rooms for the Hon. Mrs. Chudleigh, £4,000." The sum was so extravagant, that the comptroller of the household would not pass the account till he had shewn it to the King. His Majesty saw at once how he had been taken in, but it was too late to retract. He therefore gave orders for the payment, but observed, "that if Mrs. Chudleigh found the bed as hard as he did, she would never lie down on it as long as she lived."

The King was much solicited to make the effeminate Earl of Bristol a duke, but refused. Some time after, two ladies high in royal favor joined in the application. In reply, His Majesty said, "I have laid down a rule to create no duke; but to oblige you, I will make your friend a duchess."

Once when the King was on his return from an excursion to Hanover, the carriage broke down, between the Brill and Helvoetsluys, in a road where he and his attendants were obliged to stop at a country public-house till the coach could be set to rights. The refreshments they had were coffee and eggs for His Majesty and the two noblemen with him, and four bottles of gin for the servants. When about to depart, the honest landlord brought in a charge of ninety pounds. The bill being brought to Lord Ligonier, threw him into a rage, and he abused the Dutchman in no measured terms. The King overhearing the quarrel, inquired the cause, and then said, "It is an exorbitant charge, to be sure; but pay the money: Kings seldom come this way."

His Majesty was a very early riser, being generally up at five in the summer, and six in the winter. In the latter season he kindled his own fire, after which he took his chocolate, read his despatches, and prepared himself for the conferences of the day. None of the pages presumed to intrude upon him till they heard the bell. In the summer mornings he used to walk round Kensington Gardens, and sometimes read the papers in an alcove facing the palace.

The death of George the Second, like that of his father, was extremely sudden. On the morning of the 25th of October, 1760, he rose and breakfasted as usual. Scarcely,

however, had his page retired, when he was recalled by the noise of something fallen on the floor. On returning into the room, he found the King had dropped from his chair, in the act of ringing the bell. He just said, "Call Emily," meaning his daughter, and expired. The cause of his death was a rupture of the right ventricle of the heart, in consequence of which, a great quantity of blood was discharged through the aperture into the surrounding pericardium.

XI.

The proclamation of George III. took place the day after the demise of his grandfather; and on the 18th of November, he opened the Parliament with a speech which produced great effect. "Born and educated in this country," said the monarch, "I glory in the name of Briton; and the peculiar happiness of my life will ever consist in promoting the welfare of a people, whose loyalty and warm affection to me, I consider as the greatest and most permanent security of my throne."

The King now turned his thoughts to marriage, and fixed his choice on the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who was then in her 17th year. The negociation was soon concluded; and on the 7th of September, 1761, the nuptials were solemnized in the chapel royal, by Archbishop Secker. On the 22nd of the

same month, the coronation took place, which was rendered remarkable by the voluntary humiliation of the King, in taking off his crown, and laying it aside when he knelt at the altar.

Two months after the coronation, the King purchased Buckingham House, for £21,000, and presented it to the Queen, for which he gave this affectionate and delicate reason: "that in case Her Majesty should outlive him, she might not be turned out of the home they had enjoyed together."

About this time a pleasing incident occurred, worth relating, as characteristic of the harmony in which the royal pair then lived. One afternoon, the King having taken a good deal of exercise, fell asleep; which being observed by the Queen, while engaged in drawing, she sat some time contemplating his countenance; then casting her eyes on a portrait, representing some one in the costume of those days when it was the fashion for the gentlemen to wear the hair on the upper lip and chin, the fancy struck her, to see how her august partner would look with such ornaments. Taking some Indian ink, and a camel's-hair pencil, she made the trial, so gently as not to disturb his repose. But she had scarcely finished, when some lords of the council were announced, to avoid whom, she made her escape.

The nobles, on their entrance, were so startled at the

grotesque appearance of the King, that they exhibited in their own persons, almost as ludicrous countenances as His Majesty. He could not help noticing their embarrassed looks, and wondered at the cause, till on turning his eye to a mirror, he at once discovered the trick that had been played, which made him laugh heartily.

In the spring of 1765, His Majesty was attacked by a brain fever, which lasted five weeks. The nature of the malady was carefully concealed from the nation; yet some intimation of it appeared in the speech delivered by the King in person to Parliament, on the 24th of April, when he said, "My late indisposition, though not attended with danger, has led me to consider the situation in which my kingdoms and my family might be left, if it should please God to put a period to my life whilst my successor is of tender years."

Accordingly an act was passed, to supply any deficiency in the regal functions during a minority; but, from the terms of the limitation, and owing to the good health of the King, no use was ever made of it.

On the 31st of October, the same year, William Frederick, the great Duke of Cumberland, died of an apoplexy, at the age of forty-five. This mortality was followed, on the 28th of December, by the death of Prince Frederic, the King's youngest brother, in his sixteenth year. He was a youth of a very amiable disposition, and of promising

talents, which made his loss much regretted by the family.

On the 1st of October, 1766, Caroline Matilda, the posthumous daughter of Frederick Prince of Wales, was married by proxy to Christian the Seventh, King of Denmark. This proved a most unhappy alliance, and as such, it was anticipated by the princess herself, who was observed to suffer a continued depression of spirits, from the time when the proposed union was first mentioned, to her departure. The subsequent history of this unfortunate queen, who, in 1775, died in Hanover, after being divorced and imprisoned, is too well known to need any further detail or observation.

On the 8th of February, 1772, died at the age of fifty-three, the Princess Dowager of Wales, after a slow, but not painful decay. On the preceding night, she said to the medical attendant, that she thought she should rest comfortably. The King was present, and embraced his mother affectionately at parting. After he left the room, the physician frankly said, he did not think she would live many hours. Upon this, His Majesty declared he would not leave Carlton House, where the princess had long resided, till the next day. He did not, however, see his mother again alive, for she expired about five in the morning, without a struggle or a groan. As soon as the King was apprised of the event, he went into the room, knelt down by the side of

the bed, kissed the clay-cold hand of his deceased parent, and, with tears in his eyes, left the house.

During the late reign, the princess was generally esteemed, and deservedly so ; for no woman ever deported herself with more prudence or piety. But after the accession of her son, she was grossly vilified by an unprincipled party, who represented her as being the head of a secret cabal, from whose counsels emanated measures extremely unpopular, and even odious to the nation. Nothing could be wider from the truth than this calumny ; but, as Wilkes, the licentious inventor of it, said, “The people will swallow any thing.” The princess herself endured the torrent of obloquy with which she was continually assailed ; and, conscious of her integrity, she would say, “How I pity the poor deluded people ! I hope they will know better by and by.”

On the 20th of February, this year, the King sent a message to both Houses of Parliament, recommending some new legislative provision to prevent the descendants of George II. from marrying without the approbation of His Majesty, his heirs, and successors. Accordingly, a bill was brought in and passed the same session, though not without experiencing a strong opposition.

This Royal Marriage Act was occasioned by the union of the Duke of Gloucester with the Dowager Countess of Waldegrave, and that of the Duke of Cumberland

with another widow, Mrs. Horton, daughter of the Earl of Carhampton. The first of these alliances only, was productive of issue. 1. William Henry, the present Duke of Gloucester, married in 1816, to his cousin, the Princess Mary, daughter of George III. by whom he has no children. 2. Sophia Matilda, unmarried.

In 1775, the war with the American colonies commenced, which terminated with the separation of those states from Great Britain, after an immense expenditure of treasure, and waste of human life. Much censure has been thrown upon the King for his firmness in this sanguinary contest; but certainly on no just grounds, unless we are to adopt the supposition, that he acted against the sense of the nation. Now, it is clear, that the voice of the people went with the sovereign, till the hostile combinations of three European powers rendered the cause of the parent state hopeless.

Even the great Earl of Chatham, and those who, with him, favored the colonists in their resistance to taxation, spurned the idea of granting them independence. There was only one man in the kingdom who ventured to hazard that proposal: this was Dr. Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, who argued upon the simple principle, that when colonies have attained such a condition of power and population as to support themselves, the course pointed out by nature and policy, is that of their becoming a distinct state.

This doctrine, however, was treated as the dream of a visionary. But after the peace of 1783, the King said to the doctor, "Mr. Dean, you were in the right, and we were all wrong."

When the metropolis, in the summer of 1780, was the scene of the most disgraceful riots ever witnessed since the days of Jack Cade and his lawless associates, George III. by his steadiness put a stop to further mischief. His ministers being at their wits' end, and irresolute what to do, the King of his own accord ordered out the military, with full power to act every where as the exigency of the case might call for their interposition, even though no magistrate should be at hand to assist them in the discharge of their duty. By this promptitude, order was restored in a few hours; and so impressed were the inhabitants of Southwark of their obligations to the King, that they immediately voted him an address of thanks.

The resolution of His Majesty was equally conspicuous in the great trial of strength between himself and the famous coalition administration of Fox and North.

This firmness produced a state of national quiet and prosperity for the space of four years; when the suspension of the regal functions by the King's illness occasioned a fierce contest on the question of supplying a regency. Providentially, however, the restoration of the royal mind put an end to the bill, then on the eve of pass-

ing into a law. On the 22d of February, 1789, Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, were dining with Lord Chesterfield, when a letter was brought to the former. Having read it, he gave it to Dundas under the table, and whispered that when he had looked it over, it would be proper to retire for some conversation upon it. The letter was as follows :—

“ The King renews, with great satisfaction, his communication with Mr. Pitt, after the long suspension of their intercourse, owing to his very tedious and painful illness. He is fearful that during this interval the public interests have suffered great inconvenience and difficulty.

“ It is most desirable that immediate measures should be taken for restoring the functions of his government; and Mr. Pitt will consult with the Lord Chancellor to-morrow morning upon the most expedient means for that purpose; and the King will receive Mr. Pitt at Kew afterwards, about one o’clock.”

The minister punctually obeyed the summons, and had the pleasure of finding the King in perfect possession of his faculties.

On the 23rd of April, the sovereign, his family, the members of the two Houses of Parliament, and the Ministers of State, went in procession, to return thanks for this providential mercy, in St. Paul’s Cathedral.

In a conversation with the late Mr. George Hardinge,

about this time, the King said his illness had in the end been a perfect bliss to him, as proving how nobly the people would support him when he was confined.

The following summer was spent in a tour to the West of England. In his progress, the King visited several noblemen, and among the rest the Marquis of Bath, at Longleat. Here an immense concourse of people assembled from all quarters in the park, in the hope of catching a sight of the monarch. The marquis, somewhat alarmed, inquired of his steward what was best to be done, who replied that, in order to gratify the whole assemblage, he would advise that His Majesty should condescend to exhibit himself from the flat roof of the mansion, with which the King instantly complied. An attendant took the liberty of inquiring of His Majesty, who was used to large assemblies, of how many souls he might imagine the *mob* below consisted ; on which the King said, “ *Mob*, Sir, implies a disorderly crowd ; the people below are peaceable : *multitude*, therefore, if you please ; but not *mob*.”

Of the King’s quickness and intelligence the late Bishop Watson relates the following instance. “ At a levee, soon after the experiments on gunpowder had been made, I happened to be standing next to the Duke of Richmond, then master-general of the ordnance, who informed His Majesty that they were indebted to me for a great im-

provement in its fabrication. On my saying that I ought to be ashamed of myself, inasmuch as it was a scandal in a Christian bishop to instruct men in the mode of destroying one another, the King answered, 'Let not that afflict your conscience; for the shorter the conflict, the less the slaughter.'"

To a similar purport is the anecdote related by Lalande, the French astronomer, in his letter to the editors of the *Journal des Sçavans*, in 1788:

"M. Herschel," says Lalande, "having discovered a new star, on the 13th of March, 1781, and having after some time convinced himself that it was a planet, he gave it the name of the King of England, GEORGIUM SIDUS. That prince, indeed, well deserves the esteem of all astronomers, by the large sums he has expended for the promotion of the science of astronomy. This year, when, being in England, I thanked him for the ardor he has shewn in so laudable a pursuit, he made me this instructive, this memorable, answer—'Is it not better than spending money for the purpose of setting men to murder each other?'" Lalande then goes on to condemn the German astronomers, for presuming to give another name to the planet, than that by which the discoverer had chosen to distinguish it, out of gratitude to his patron.

On the 18th of September, 1790, died, at his house in Pall Mall, in his forty-fifth year, Henry Frederick,

Duke of Cumberland. He had long been troubled with an asthmatic complaint; but the disease of which he died, was of a cancerous nature, in his throat.

In the following year, the Duke of York was married, at Berlin, to the Princess Royal of Prussia; and on the 23rd of November the ceremony was repeated at the Queen's palace.

But, pleasing as this alliance was to the King, another, which occurred on the 4th of April, 1793, between Prince Augustus, now Duke of Sussex, and Lady Augusta Murray, fourth daughter of the Earl of Dunmore, produced a contrary sensation. This connection took place at Rome; and in the ensuing winter, the parties were remarried, by banns, in the parish church of St. George, Hanover-square. As this was contrary to an express statute, and the prince was not of age, the Court of Arches, by a formal process, declared both the marriage in England, and that at Rome, null and void. It was confidently asserted at the time, that the prince wrote a letter to his father, begging permission to relinquish his contingent rights in the succession, and to sink into the character of a private gentleman, rather than be separated from his beloved Augusta. This could not be granted; but, in 1806, the King's licence was given to the lady, to assume the name of d'Ameland, which was in some degree a recognition of her affinity to

the royal family. Two children, a son and a daughter, were the fruits of this union; and, though illegitimate by the law of England, the former will succeed, in failure of male issue of His present Majesty, and the Duke of Cumberland, to the crown of Hanover. Lady d'Ame-land, after living apart from the duke many years, died on the 28th of February, 1830.

The fortitude of the King was twice put to a severe trial, in the year 1795; first by the unpleasant differences which arose between the Prince of Wales and his consort, within a few months after their marriage, and next, by a spirit of lawless violence among the people. On the 29th of October, His Majesty was attacked by a furious mob, in his way to and from the House of Lords. The glass window of the carriage, next to where the King sat, was perforated by a ball or stone. This happened in his passage down, near the Palace-yard, and on his return through the park, the enraged populace would have dragged His Majesty out of the coach, had not a strong body of the military come to his rescue.

On the 18th of May, 1796, the King suffered much in parting from his daughter, the Princess Royal; who was then married, much against the inclination of her father, to the hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg. The reason of this dislike, on the part of the King, was a report, widely spread, and generally believed, that the

prince had cruelly used his first wife, who was of the imperial family of Russia.

This year, His Majesty, attended by both Houses of Parliament, went in procession to St. Paul's Cathedral, to return thanks to the Almighty, for the three great naval victories, obtained by Admirals Howe, Jervis, and Duncan.

A few days after this spectacle, His Majesty sat to Sir William Beechey for his portrait. In the course of the conversation, the King asked "if he had seen the procession." Sir William answered, that he had been favored with a fine view of the whole, from a window on Ludgate Hill. "Then," said the King, "you had the advantage of me; for I could only see the back of the coachman, and the tails of the horses."

It was in this eventful year, the end of the century, that His Majesty gave that noble proof of his sensibility and munificence, the settlement of four thousand pounds a-year upon Cardinal York, the last descendant of the unfortunate House of Stuart. Herein the venerable monarch exhibited a striking contrast to William the Third of England, and Louis the Sixteenth of France. When Marshal Boufflers urged upon William the claim of the widow of James the Second, to the dower of fifty thousand pounds, settled upon her by Parliament before the revolution, the King admitted the demand to be

just, and promised it should be paid. Notwithstanding this, William went from his word, and neither the Queen, nor any of her family, ever received a farthing of the money.

When Charles Edward, commonly called the Pretender, fell into poverty, application was made to the British ministry for a portion of the grant, but without success. Louis XVI. was then requested to use his influence for that purpose; but he said, "It is an unfortunate family, of whom I do not wish to hear any thing." Little did the monarch think, that his own fate, and that of his house, would so soon resemble the unfortunate Stuarts. Cardinal York died in 1807, aged eighty-two, and left to the Prince of Wales the garter worn by Charles I. and a valuable ring used by the ancient Kings of Scotland, at their coronation. He allowed £800 a year to his sister-in-law, the Countess of Albany, which pension our King doubled, and caused to be punctually paid as long as she lived.

On the 25th of August, 1805, the royal family was deprived of the Duke of Gloucester, who died in his sixty-second year. He spent many years at Rome, for the benefit of his health; and there his son, the present duke, was born, January the 15th, 1776. While in that capital, his Royal Highness received many marks of respect from Pope Clement XIV. and his successor. It was an invariable custom, from time immemorial, for

all carriages, on meeting that of the sovereign pontiff, to deviate on one side, or if the place was very narrow, to back out, and so make a clear passage. It happened once, that the pope and the duke entered a very narrow street, in opposite directions, at the same time, and came in contact at a part where there was no turning. His holiness immediately gave orders that his own carriage should recede, to let the English prince advance; which was done, much to the astonishment of the Roman people. Other acts of civility, still more distinguished, were shewn to the Duke of Gloucester and his brother, the Duke of Cumberland; in return for which, His Majesty wrote a letter of thanks to Pius VI. with his own hand. The remains of the Duke of Gloucester were deposited in the royal vault at Windsor: where also, those of his relict were laid, on her death, August 22nd, 1807, in the sixty-ninth year of her age. Her father was Sir Edward Walpole, and her mother's name was Clements. She and her sister were milliners, at Bath. Sir Edward lived at Frogmore, in a large house, which was afterwards pulled down and laid into the late queen's garden; but a small one was erected near the spot, and now belongs to the Princess Augusta. By his lady, Sir Edward had Laura, married to Dr. Frederick Keppel, Bishop of Exeter; another daughter, married to Lord Dysart; a son, named Horatio, who died unmarried; and Maria, first married

to Lord Waldegrave, and next, in 1766, to the Duke of Gloucester.

His Majesty had for some years suffered a partial decay of sight, which at length ended in total obscuracion; yet under that severe privation, he preserved his usual flow of spirits, took his regular walks, and favorite rides, and transacted business with his wonted punctuality and intelligence. At length, however, the protracted illness of his youngest daughter, the Princess Amelia, operated so acutely upon his parental sensibility, that it was observed every time he visited her, which was sometimes twice a day, his mind appeared to be deeply affected.

At length, about the beginning of October, 1810, His Majesty received from the physicians, the afflicting report, that the princess might be no more in an hour, or that she might languish for some days. From that time the King's agitation was manifest. He passed some days absorbed in grief, and others again with some degree of composure, according to the varying state of the disorder.

The King at times kept the physicians with him, when they made their report, two or three hours, in minute inquiries. He was accustomed to receive a report every morning at seven, and afterwards every two hours in the course of the day. At three o'clock he regularly went in his carriage to the lodge to visit her, and the effect of these visits was visible in his tears; but his conversation

was always such as tended to console and edify the tender object of his solicitude. While bending over her couch, on Wednesday, the 24th of October, the princess took his hand, and placing a ring inlaid with her own hair, on his finger, said, "Remember me!" This was too much for his nature to bear. He immediately left the house, and entered it no more. The next morning, the medical attendants thought it their duty to acquaint ministers with the alteration that had taken place in the King's speech and deportment. On Friday, the symptoms of mental derangement became more obvious; and on Saturday, a council was held, when orders were given that none but the medical attendants should have access to the royal apartments.

Meanwhile, the princess lingered on, in total ignorance of her beloved parent's condition, till the 2nd of November, when she departed, without the least struggle or convulsion. The funeral took place by torch-light, on the 13th, and all the shops at Windsor were closed during the day.

With this awful and affecting event, the history of George the Third may properly be said to terminate, for though his mortal existence continued till the 29th of January, 1820, the interval to him was a blank, and the Castle of Windsor no better than a tomb.

But, to borrow the language of an elegant moralist, "though involved in darkness, both bodily and mental,

for so many years, he was still regarded with a sentiment compounded of sorrow, respect, and tenderness. He was, indeed, consigned to seclusion, but not to oblivion. The distinctions of party, with respect to him, were lost in one common feeling; and the afflicted monarch was ever cherished in the hearts of the virtuous of every denomination, whether religious or political.

“Even in the aberrations of reason, he was not forsaken. The hand which inflicted the blow, mercifully mitigated the pain. His wounded mind was soothed by visionary anticipations of heavenly happiness. Might not these fanciful consolations indicate something of the habit of a mind accustomed in its brightest hours to the indulgence of pious thoughts? And may we not in general venture to observe, in vindication of the severest dispensations of the Almighty, that, even during the distressful season of alienation of mind, the hours which are passed without sorrow, and without sin, are not, to the sufferer, among the most unhappy hours?

“Notwithstanding the calamities with which it has pleased God to afflict the world; calamities in which England has had its share; yet the reign of the Third George, may be called a brilliant and glorious period. Independently of the splendor of our geographical discoveries, our Eastern acquisitions, and other memorable political events, we may challenge any era in the history

of the world, to produce a catalogue of the twentieth part of the noble institutions which have characterised and consecrated this auspicious reign: of these some have successfully promoted every elegant art, and others every useful science. Painting, Statuary, and Engraving, have been brought into fresh existence under the royal patronage. The application of chemistry and mechanics to the purposes of common life, has been attended with unexampled success. Signals at sea have been reduced to a science; the telegraph has been invented; military tactics are said to have been carried to the utmost perfection. Among the gentle arts of peace, the study of agriculture, which the King loved and cultivated, has become one among the favorite pursuits of our honorable men. The time will fail to recount the numerous domestic societies of every conceivable description, established for promoting the moral and temporal good of our country; persons of high rank, even of the highest, men of all parties and professions, periodically assemble to contrive the best means to instruct the ignorant, and reclaim the vicious; to relieve every want which man can feel, or man can mitigate; to heal the disturbed in mind, or the diseased in body; nay, to resuscitate the apparently dead: prisons have been converted into places of moral improvement, and the number of churches has been rapidly multiplying. But the peculiar glory which

distinguishes the period we are commemorating, is, that of our having wiped out the foulest blot that ever stained, not only the character of the Christian Britain, but of human nature itself, by the abolition of the opprobrious traffic in the human species.

“If we advert to other remarkable circumstances which distinguish this reign; while new worlds have been discovered in the heavens, one of which bears the honored name of the sovereign under whose dominion it became known, on the earth, Christianity has been successfully carried to its utmost boundaries. In this reign also, it has been our preeminent glory to have fought single-handed against the combined world; yet, not by our own strength, but by the arm of the Lord of Hosts, England has been victorious.”

GEORGE IV.

THE circumstances under which George III. ascended the throne of these kingdoms were so peculiarly auspicious, that a few lines may well be dedicated to the short interval preceding the birth of George IV.

The young Monarch, on succeeding to the throne of his grandfather, found his kingdom engaged, it is true, in an arduous foreign war, the most extensive which Great Britain had ever carried on; but happily governed by a firm, and highly popular administration, at the head of which was a man whose splendid talents and commanding eloquence, with the uniform success of his vigorous measures, had silenced party spirit and parliamentary opposition, and given

him an undisputed ascendancy even over his colleagues, among whom were men of very great ability. At home, the kingdom enjoyed perfect tranquillity, to which no interruption was now to be apprehended from the partisans of the exiled family of the Stuarts, who were few in number, isolated and discouraged, without friends, and without any hold on the sympathy of the people. Commerce and manufactures were in the most flourishing condition, affording ample means for providing for the unparalleled expenses of a war, which, having been latterly attended with brilliant successes, was extremely popular. The young Monarch himself, being the first Sovereign of the House of Brunswick born in England, commenced his reign with the strongest prepossessions in his favor, which were in fact justified by his amiable and dignified manner, his unblemished morals, and his personal accomplishments. Some persons there undoubtedly were of tempers less sanguine, and minds more deeply reflecting, who did not fully participate in the flattering anticipations of the immense majority of their countrymen; but

no eye could then perceive in the distant horizon

“The cloudy speck, in which compressed,
The mighty tempest brooding dwells:”

no human foresight could then presage the scenes of popular discontent, of civil war, terminating with the disruption of the fairest portion of our empire; the revolutionary dangers, the noble efforts of patriotic energy, the terrific struggle of religion, justice, and order, with licentiousness, tyranny, and unbridled ambition; the reverses and the triumphs, the national glories and the appalling domestic visitation, the records of which are inscribed in imperishable characters, in the history of his varied and long-protracted reign.

The first measures of the new Sovereign confirmed the hopes that were conceived of him. His first speech in Parliament, his replies to the various loyal addresses presented to him, his acceptance of a stated annual sum for the civil list, instead of the hereditary and other revenues, his recommendation that the judges should henceforth hold their offices for life, and the singular wisdom and judgment which he displayed in the

choice of a person qualified to be a consort for himself, and Queen of these kingdoms, gave universal satisfaction, and made his subjects hail with unmixed delight the auspicious day which gave to their beloved Sovereign an heir to his throne.

It was on the 12th of August, 1762, between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, that Her Majesty was safely delivered by Mrs. Draper of a prince at St. James's palace. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Dukes of Devonshire and Rutland, Lords Hardwicke, Huntingdon, Talbot, Halifax, Bute and Masham, and all the ladies of the bedchamber, and maids of honor, were in attendance. Dr. Hunter was also ready in waiting, in case his professional assistance should be required. The messenger who communicated the joyful news to His Majesty received a present of five hundred pounds.

While the park guns were still firing to announce this event, a long train of twenty waggons, guarded by a body of Marines, came down St. James's-street. These waggons contained the treasure taken in the *Hermione*, a Spanish frigate,

one of the richest prizes recorded in the annals of the British navy, the share of each private man amounting to £900. His Majesty and great numbers of the nobility stood at the windows over the palace gate, to see the procession, which it may well be supposed was saluted with acclamations of joy by the people, who were assembled in crowds, and who, with a feeling not wholly confined to the uneducated classes, and which we would not willingly call by so harsh a name as superstition, were inclined to view the coincidence of two such pleasing events, as an omen of the future happiness and prosperity of the infant prince.

Another coincidence, of which much notice was taken, was that the birth of the Prince of Wales happened exactly forty-eight years, according to the old style, after the accession of the House of Brunswick to the throne of these kingdoms; George the First having succeeded to the throne on the 1st of August, 1714. This circumstance was particularly alluded to in the address of the City of London to His Majesty on this occasion, in the following terms:—

“So important an event, and upon a day ever sacred to liberty, and these kingdoms, fills us with the most grateful sentiments of the Divine goodness, which has thus early crowned Your Majesty’s domestic happiness, and opened to your people the agreeable prospect of permanence and stability to the blessings they derive from the wisdom and steadiness of Your Majesty’s victorious reign.”

On the 17th of August, the King was pleased to order letters patent to pass under the great seal of Great Britain, for creating his Royal Highness the Prince of Great Britain (Electoral Prince of Brunswick-Lunenburg, Duke of Cornwall and Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Great Steward of Scotland) Prince of Wales, and Earl of Chester.

On the 8th of September, the ceremony of baptising the young prince was performed in the great council chamber of the palace, by his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, and his Serene Highness the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz (who was represented by the Duke

of Devonshire, the Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's household), being godfathers, and her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales godmother to the royal infant, who was named **GEORGE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK.**

That highly revered prelate, Dr. Thomas Secker, had been raised to the Primacy of England about four years before this time, and was now verging to the age of 70. He of course assisted in the funeral ceremonies on the death of George II. as well as in the proclamation of George III. and in the subsequent ceremonials of the marriage and coronation, which in consequence of his office he had the honor to solemnize. He had before, when rector of St. James's, baptized the new King, who was born in that parish, and he was afterwards called on to perform the same office for four of His Majesty's children, the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York and Clarence, and the Princess Royal; a very remarkable concurrence of such incidents in the life of one man.

The first creation of the title of "Prince of Wales," in the royal family of England, occurred

in the reign of Edward I. This sovereign, to conciliate the affections of the Welsh, whom he had subdued, removed his queen, Eleanor, to Caernarvon Castle, in North Wales; in which place, on the 25th April, 1284, she was delivered of a son. On this the sagacious Edward summoned the Welsh barons, and demanded if they would be willing to subject themselves to a native prince. Happily they consented; and having sworn to yield him obedience, he nominated the royal infant, in a subsequent charter, "Edward Prince of Wales;" since which auspicious event, the eldest son and heir-apparent to the King of England has retained that title.

The following is a list of the princes who have borne the title of PRINCE OF WALES.

1. Edward of Caernarvon, son of Edward I., afterwards King Edward II.
2. Edward of Windsor, son of Edward II., afterwards Edward III.
3. Edward the Black Prince, son of Edward III., who died during the life of his father.
4. Richard of Bourdeaux, son of the Black Prince, afterwards Richard II.

5. Henry of Monmouth, son of Henry IV., afterwards Henry V.

6. Henry of Windsor, son of Henry V., afterwards Henry VI.

7. Edward, son of Henry VI., murdered by Richard Duke of Gloucester.

8. Edward, son of Edward IV., afterwards Edward V., murdered by order of his uncle, Richard Duke of Gloucester.

9. Edward, son of the Duke of Gloucester (Richard III.), who died in the lifetime of his father.

10. Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII., who also died during the life of his father.

11. Henry, second son of Henry VII., afterwards Henry VIII.

12. Edward, son of Henry VIII., afterwards Edward VI.

13. Henry, eldest son of James I., who died during the life of his father.

14. Charles, second son of James I., afterwards Charles I.

15. Charles, son of Charles I., afterwards Charles II.

16. James, (pretended son of James II.,) acknowledged in 1688, but subsequently abjured.

17. George, son of George I., afterwards George II.

18. Frederic Lewis, son of George II., who died during the life of his father.

19. George William Frederic, son of Frederic Lewis, afterwards George III.

20. George Augustus Frederic, son of George III., afterwards George IV.

When his Royal Highness was just one year old, their Majesties' second son, the late Duke of York, was born, August 16, 1763. Being so nearly of an age, they were able to begin their studies almost together, when the time arrived for appointing a tutor to direct their education; this circumstance was undoubtedly favorable to the excitement of a noble emulation between the two brothers, and cemented the bonds of the friendship which always subsisted between them.

The royal nursery was placed under the superintendency of Lady Charlotte Finch, widow of the honorable William Finch, one of the most amiable and accomplished women of the

age,* who had the singular felicity of seeing all the branches of the royal stock, with the exception of two infants, reared to maturity.

The 1st of March, being St. David's day, 1765, Herbert Thomas, Esq., treasurer, and the rest of the stewards of the Society of Ancient Britons, erected for the support of the Welsh charity schools, on Clerkenwell-green, Middlesex, went in procession to St. James's, where they were admitted to see the Prince of Wales, and kiss his hand, and then presented his Royal Highness with the following address:—

“May it please your Royal Highness,—The members of the society who have now the honor to approach the presence of your Royal Highness, do it with hearts full of zeal for the prosperity of your august parents, the person of your Royal Highness, and every branch of the royal family.

“United as they are, in their sentiments of loyalty and charity, they hope for the protection, and implore the patronage of your Royal High-

* She was daughter of the Earl of Pomfret, and mother of the late Earl of Winchelsea.

ness, for an institution that educates, clothes, and supports many poor destitute natives of that principality from which your Royal Highness derives your most distinguished title.

“Your royal parents remember no period of their lives too early for doing good; and when a few years shall call forth your virtues into action, your Royal Highness may perhaps with satisfaction reflect upon your faithful Ancient Britons, thus laying themselves at your feet.”

To which address his Royal Highness made the following answer, with the greatest propriety, attended with a suitable action:—

“Gentlemen,—I thank you for this mark of your duty to the king, and wish prosperity to this charity.”

His Royal Highness was then most graciously pleased to present the treasurer with a hundred guineas for the use of the charity.

On the 26th December of the same year, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and his Serene Highness the hereditary Prince of Brunswick, and the Right Honorable the Earl of Albemarle, were invested by His Majesty with

the most noble order of the Garter. At the age of nine, an establishment was formed for him and his brother at Buckingham House. The first governor of the princes was the Earl of Holderness, under whom was Monsieur de Salzas, a Swiss gentleman. This was a most important trust, as the welfare of millions might be said to depend in a great measure on the first ideas instilled into the mind of the pupils. On this subject, a beautiful passage in the Spectator may be quoted as peculiarly apposite:—

“ I consider,” says the famous Addison, “ a human soul without education, like marble in a quarry, which shews none of its inherent beauties until the skill of the polisher fetches out the colours, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental cloud, spot, and vein, that runs through the body of it.—Education, after the same manner, when it works upon a noble mind, draws out to view every latent virtue and perfection, which without such helps are never able to make their appearance.”

“ If my reader will give me leave to change the allusion so soon upon him, I shall make use of

the same instance to illustrate the force of education, which Aristotle has brought to explain his doctrine of substantial forms, when he tells us that a statue lies hid in a block of marble; and that the art of the statuary only clears away the superfluous matter, and removes the rubbish. The figure is in the stone, and the sculptor only finds it. What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul. The philosopher, the saint, the hero, the wise, the good, or the great man, very often lie hid and concealed in a plebeian, which a proper education might have disinterred, and have brought to light. Thus we see the block of marble sometimes only begun to be chipped, sometimes rough-hewn, and but just sketched into a human figure; sometimes we see the man appearing distinctly in all his limbs and features; sometimes we find the figure wrought up to great elegance; but seldom meet with any to which the hand of a Phidias or a Praxiteles could not give several nice touches and finishes."

M. de Salzas was of noble origin, but reduced in circumstances; in consequence of which he was obliged to adopt the profession

of tutor to the sons of a considerable burgo-master in Holland. At the Hague he became known to Lord Holderness, who was then ambassador at that court. His lordship was so pleased with his manners and his talents, that he offered to make him his private secretary. Salzas gladly accepted the situation, in which he gave complete satisfaction to the earl, who, on his return to England, introduced him to the King in terms of warm commendation. M. de Salzas, on his appointment as sub-preceptor, was required to sleep in the apartment of the two princes, and to be constantly with them, even in their hours of amusement. In discharging the duties of his office, he conducted himself with a propriety that gained alike the affections of his pupils and the confidence of the sovereign. At length, however, Lord Holderness, upon some umbrage which has never been clearly explained, relinquished the charge; and at the same time M. de Salzas gave up his place also. The retirement of the earl was not of much consequence; but that of his friend both surprised and hurt the King; who intreated him, in vain, to continue. Salzas, how-

ever, could not be induced by the most flattering allurements to remain without his patron; though he ever cherished a grateful respect for His Majesty and the whole royal family. Of the esteem in which he was held by the King, a proof appeared many years after, when Dr. Archibald Maclaine returned from Holland. Being on the terrace at Windsor, His Majesty recognized him, and among other things said, “Dr. Maclaine, you are acquainted with a very valuable friend of mine, Monsieur de Salzas;” and after inquiring about his health and pursuits, added, “I have written him many letters to persuade him to return to me; but he always declines it.” The doctor said, he was rather surprised at that, as Monsieur de Salzas always spoke of His Majesty in the highest terms of respect and attachment. The King replied, “I am glad to hear you say so; it gives me great pleasure to find that he retains the same affection for me, that I shall always bear towards him.”

The first classical preceptors of the two princes were Dr. Markham, Bishop of Chester, and Dr. Cyril Jackson, afterwards Dean of Christchurch.

It cannot be denied, that though no objection whatever could be made to the personal character of these two eminent men, or any doubts entertained of their qualifications for the important charge committed to their care, many persons were not satisfied with the propriety of the system of restraint and seclusion that was so strictly adhered to in the education of the Prince of Wales. It was feared that it might not be sufficiently liberal for the future sovereign of a free country, and that though it might render him a good scholar, and an accomplished gentleman, it was ill calculated to form a prudent prince, or a great monarch. Whatever objections may be alleged against a public education in our universities, it has the happy effect of gradually familiarising young men to an intercourse with the world; and it is probable that if any unfavorable results had been produced by placing the Prince of Wales at a public seminary, they would have been less prejudicial than those of the plan actually adopted, which was so austere that the moment of the Prince's emancipation was like the escape of a prisoner from

confinement. It cannot therefore be a matter of surprise, if, after having been debarred even from the innocent pleasures natural to youth, he should have plunged into all the enjoyments of society, with an avidity corresponding with the restraint under which he had previously been held.

Dr. Markham, the late Archbishop of York, had risen in his profession solely by his own merit. At the early age of thirty, he had the distinguished honor to be chosen first master of Westminster School; and during fourteen years he discharged, with the highest reputation, the laborious duties of that useful and honorable employment. His merits, while he presided over the first school in the kingdom, were not overlooked; and in 1767, his public services were rewarded with the deanery of Christchurch. This lucrative benefice is a dignity of great importance and responsibility, involving the care both of a college and a cathedral. The college, distinguished by its wealth, by the magnificence of its buildings, and the rank and number of its members, towers above the sister institutions of

Oxford; and it has long been the endeavour of those who have presided over it, to justify its claims to superiority by the solid distinctions of eminence in discipline, in learning, and whatever can add lustre to a religious and literary foundation. Under the vigilant guardianship of Dr. Markham, Christchurch preserved its accustomed pretensions to superiority, and seldom less than from twenty to thirty youths of the first families in the kingdom were entrusted to his care. On his consecration to the bishopric of Chester, he resigned the deanery of Christchurch, and in 1771 was appointed preceptor to the two elder princes.

The Prince of Wales made a very quick progress, and that with little labor. Virgil and Horace soon became familiar to him, while Tacitus, notwithstanding the brevity and obscurity of his style, constituted his principal delight. In Greek his proficiency was not less felicitous; of which a proof was evinced soon after the resignation of the Earl of Holderness. That nobleman was succeeded by Lord Bruce, who, though a good scholar for one of his rank, had not the

degree of classic knowledge necessary to qualify him as the superintendent of the prince's studies. It is true, his lordship's department was not strictly preceptorial, but it was requisite that he should be enabled to contribute that substantial aid towards the cultivation of the royal mind, which the opportunity of constant intercourse and frequent conversation afforded. The appointment of Lord Bruce to the post of governor happened at that period when the Prince of Wales may be said to have passed the age of boyhood; for he was now fourteen, and had made considerable progress in Greek. Many great scholars, indeed, had entered the university with a much more slender stock of elementary learning than that which stored the mind of the Prince when this change took place in his tuition.

About this time the literary world was gratified by the publication of Mr. Wood's posthumous "Essay on the original Genius of Homer." The editor of this elegant performance was the learned Jacob Bryant, who presented the first copy of the volume to the King,

previous to its appearance in public. The Prince of Wales was now reading the Odyssey, having gone through the Iliad a short time before. To a student of his ardent temper, therefore, eager for information, and enthusiastically fond of Homer, the acquisition of such a book as the Essay could not fail to yield great pleasure by its descriptive illustrations. Homer, with a guide like Mr. Wood, who had traversed the Troad, and other regions immortalised by the poet, became more interesting than ever. The prince read him again with new delight; and called the attention of his governor to the astonishing accuracy of the Homeric geography. Lord Bruce of course assented, but it was rather from courtesy than any knowledge of the subject. With the original Greek he had no acquaintance; and all that he could gather for the purpose of holding a conversation upon Homer's distinctive merits, was obtained through the medium of Pope's paraphrastic version. On one occasion his lordship ventured to give an opinion, and to hazard a quotation; the correctness of which was called in question by the prince, who also pointed

out some gross slips in pronunciation. Upon appeal to competent authority, judgment was given in favor of the prince. This affair spread, and excited the laugh so much against the governor, that he thought it best to lay down an office which he ought not to have accepted. By way of softening matters, he was created Earl of Aylesbury; and afterwards obtained successively the appointments of lord chamberlain and treasurer to the queen.

Lord Bruce was succeeded by the Duke of Montagu, who, without any high pretensions to literature, possessed all the other substantial qualities to fit him for the situation.

Soon after this change, Dr. Robert Drummond, Archbishop of York, died; upon which the King, agreeably to a former promise, immediately translated the Bishop of Chester to that dignity. His grace of course then quitted the charge of tutor to the princes; and at the same time Dr. Jackson resigned the situation of sub-preceptor. An idle story was circulated, as if these two excellent men had given some dissatisfaction, by suffering improper books to find their way

into the hands of the Prince of Wales, tending to infuse slavish principles into his mind. There was not a word of truth in the rumour; though at an earlier period, and before Dr. Markham or his friend had any employment about the royal children, a frivolous book of amusement was dedicated to the Prince of Wales, and presented to him by the author at Buckingham House. When the King examined it, for he was very careful that the princes should read nothing but what was strictly moral, he dismissed the book, with strong terms of indignation against the author who had taken such a liberty.

As to Dr. Markham, it was impossible that any man could stand higher in the royal estimation than he did, all his life.

The Prince of Wales in particular cherished for the venerable prelate almost a filial regard; of which the late Dr. Maclaine used with pleasure to relate the following instances.

The doctor happened to dine, in the summer of 1797, with the archbishop, just before the marriage of his daughter with the Earl of Mansfield. While at table, a letter was brought

to the archbishop from the Prince of Wales, congratulating him on the approaching union, in terms of so much tenderness and affection, that the good old man shed tears in the perusal.

Upon another occasion, the prince wrote to the archbishop requesting the presentation of a living then vacant, to one of his Royal Highness's clerical friends. The archbishop, in reply, expressed great concern that the living was already promised; but added an assurance that the Prince might command the next piece of preferment that should fall of equal, or superior value. This letter the prince answered, by return of post, requesting the archbishop not to make himself uneasy at not being able to grant what he had asked; and only begged him, very delicately, to keep his friend in remembrance on a future occasion. Accordingly, when the next good living fell, his grace immediately presented the clergyman to it; and the prince, with the same promptitude and politeness as before, acknowledged the favor in the most grateful and affectionate terms.

With respect to Dr. Jackson, he suffered no

diminution of the royal favor in consequence of his ceasing to fill an office about the prince's person. In 1783, he was appointed Dean of Christchurch, and was subsequently offered the bishopric of Oxford, which he refused, as well as the Primacy of Ireland, which it was proposed to bestow upon him on the death of Archbishop Newcombe.

When Dr. Jackson was appointed Dean of Christchurch, he entered upon his office with a firm determination not to overlook any irregular conduct in the students, and to shew the strictest impartiality in the infliction of his censures. At the commencement of the long vacation, he issued a general order that no member of Christchurch should be seen at the Oxford races, and if any happened to be at Oxford at this time, they should attend the prayers at nine o'clock. When these prayers commence, all the college gates are locked, and no under-graduate is suffered to go out after that time. Lord Duncannon, then a member of Christchurch, had previously engaged to dance with the daughter of the Duke of Marlborough at the assembly in the evening;

and rather than violate his engagement, thought it necessary to transgress the dean's orders. In consequence of this, the dean, on the following morning, sent his compliments, requesting to speak with his lordship; upon which Lord Duncannon perceived that his fate was inevitable, and he accordingly withdrew his signature from the books, in order to avoid expulsion. He then waited upon the dean, who intimated to his lordship the disagreeable necessity in which he was placed; to which his lordship, with much candour, replied: "Sir, I well knew your determined resolution in case of a general order being transgressed, and applaud it most heartily; but beg to inform you that I have saved you the trouble of expelling me, and hope therefore that we shall continue as good friends as before." Thus an affair, equally unpleasant to both parties, was concluded without any acrimonious feeling on either side.

Dr. Markham was succeeded by Dr. Hurd, Bishop of Lichfield, and Dr. Jackson by Mr. Wm. Arnald, of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The appointment of Bishop Hurd is said to have

been made upon the recommendation of the great Earl of Mansfield. Though this is probable, certain it is that the King had many years before expressed his admiration of the doctor's Historical Dialogues in a remarkable way, saying that he thought the author of so constitutional a work would make a very proper tutor for the prince. It is very likely that this observation was made to Lord Mansfield, by whom, at a fitting season, it was remembered to his friend's advantage.

Bishop Hurd's merits were very great, and few men at that time could be found better qualified to continue what Dr. Markham had so well begun.

The education of a prince, especially of an heir-apparent to the throne of a great empire like that of Britain, is a concern of peculiar delicacy, and a trust of high responsibility.

How well it was discharged in the present case, needs no other evidence than the voice of the public; the approbation of all parties; and the regard which the King had for Dr. Hurd as long as the prelate lived. Of that regard several

instances might here be mentioned. When Dr. Thomas, clerk of the closet, and Bishop of Winchester, died in 1781, His Majesty despatched a special messenger to the Bishop of Lichfield, who had but just gone down to his diocese, desiring him to return to town immediately. On his arrival, the King gave him the clerkship, saying, very graciously, that in this he only did himself a favor; but that in the next place he must have the pleasure of doing one in return by nominating the bishop to the see of Worcester, now about to be vacated by the translation of Bishop North to Winchester.

Two years after this, Dr. Cornwallis, Archbishop of Canterbury, died, on which the King, without saying a word to his ministers, offered the primacy to Bishop Hurd. The modest prelate expressed his gratitude with much feeling, but begged leave to decline the dignity. "Many better men than himself," he said, "had been content to die Bishops of Worcester, and he had no other wish than to follow their example." Bishop Lowth, to whom the offer was next made,

gave a similar answer: and then, on his recommendation, the Bishop of Bangor, Dr. John Moore, was elevated to the vacant chair.

Another proof of the affection which the King had for Dr. Hurd, appeared in one of the finest compliments ever paid by a sovereign to a subject. The bishop's private seal had the bearing of a cross with the letters I. N. R. I. on a label, a glory above, and these words beneath—ΕΚ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ. His Majesty, whose observation nothing could escape, was struck by the device, and instantly resolved to make use of it for a purpose he was then contemplating. This was the founding of an annual prize, consisting of a gold medal, for the best theological essay by a student of the University of Göttingen. On the one side of the medal was the profile of the King; and on the obverse, an exact copy of Bishop Hurd's seal. When the medal was executed, His Majesty took an opportunity of presenting one of the first impressions to the bishop, with his own hand, at Buckingham House. The royal gift was valued as it should be, by being left to the Bishops of Worcester in perpetuity.

It is a trait highly honorable to the feelings of the Prince of Wales, that he ever continued to hold his preceptors in high respect. For a proof of this we have only to mention the two following short anecdotes, which reflect equal credit on his sensibility as a man, and on his condescension as a prince. On a summer excursion through some of the western counties of England, the Prince happened to be in the neighbourhood of the palace of the Bishop of Worcester, and inquiring after the health of its venerable inhabitant, he was informed that his lordship was so infirm, that he rarely stirred out of his episcopal residence, but that in other respects his faculties remained unimpaired, and he possessed as good a share of health and spirits as usually fall to the lot of persons at his advanced period of life. On receiving this information, his Royal Highness despatched one of his attendants to the palace of his venerable and amiable preceptor, to ask his permission to wait upon him, as he understood that the state of his health did not permit him to come abroad. The good bishop, as may readily be conceived,

was charmed with the condescension of his illustrious pupil, and in suitable terms expressed his grateful sense of the honor which his Royal Highness designed to shew him. An interview succeeded, highly interesting to those who witnessed it; and the prince left the venerable prelate penetrated with the kindness, affability, and flattering remembrance of his royal pupil.

The other anecdote to which we refer is of a more recent date, and reflects perhaps still more honor on his Royal Highness's character. The prince, it is well known, for a number of years was in the habit of collecting portraits of all the eminent personages who had at any time been honored with his friendship. These portraits are executed by the first artists, and form by far the finest collection of modern portraits that is to be met with in the kingdom. Among the other portraits of his distinguished friends, the Prince of Wales possesses an admirable likeness of the late Archbishop of York, which some few years ago was exhibited in the Royal Academy, and was then generally esteemed one of the finest portraits produced by the British school. It was

painted by Hoppner, in his best style, and possesses so much of the manner and feeling of Sir Joshua Reynolds, that it might be mistaken for a work of that great master. It formerly occupied a conspicuous situation in the crimson drawing-room in Carlton House, in which splendid apartment there were also a portrait of Lord Erskine, by Reynolds, and one of Lord Chancellor Thurlow, by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

Soon after the meeting of Parliament, Feb. 8, 1772, her Royal Highness, Augusta, Princess Dowager of Wales, expired, in the fifty-third year of her age. She was a princess possessed of many virtues, and had been greatly beloved and esteemed by the English nation. It was in the same year that that remarkable bill, known by the name of the Royal Marriage Bill, was brought into Parliament, and passed into a law. The immediate motive to the introduction of this bill was the recent marriage of the Duke of Cumberland, second brother to the King, with Mrs. Horton, relict of Colonel Horton, and daughter of Lord Irnham. It had long been believed that the Duke of Gloucester was privately married to the

dowager Countess of Waldegrave, which marriage the duke now openly avowed. By this act marriages contracted by members of the royal family are declared null and void, unless His Majesty's approbation be previously obtained; but if the parties have attained the age of twenty-five years, and give notice to the Privy Council of their intended marriage, such marriage shall be held good in law, unless Parliament shall, within the space of twelve months, declare its disapprobation of the same. This bill excited great dissatisfaction, and two very spirited protests against it were signed by eighteen peers.

On the 30th of November, 1780, an affecting scene took place, in the separation of the two princes, by the departure of the younger for the continent. Their Majesties, and all the branches of the royal family, wept; and the Prince of Wales was so moved, that he stood in a state of entire insensibility, unable to speak, or to express the concern by which he was agitated.

It happened, unfortunately, that the prince became remarkably attached to his uncle, the

Duke of Cumberland, a good-natured but feeble-minded man, whose whole life was a course of weakness and dissipation. The duke took great delight in his nephew, and without any bad intention led him into parties of a very questionable character.

An instance of this occurred within a few weeks after the prince was announced as having attained his majority.

Lord Chesterfield invited his Royal Highness and the duke to an entertainment at his house on Blackheath. Several persons were there, of course; but being all of them *bon vivants*, the bottle circulated so rapidly as to produce scenes of rather a tragi-comic character. Among other frolics, one of the company, at breaking up, let loose a furious mastiff, which was generally kept chained for fear of mischief. The dog, on gaining his liberty, attacked one of the footmen, and tore his right arm in a dreadful manner; then the animal sprang at a fine horse, which was very nearly strangled; and now such an uproar arose as threw the whole place into confusion. The gentlemen

being heightened by wine, drew up in a circle, and commenced war upon the dog; but Towser kept them at defiance, and made not a few of them repent their temerity. At the close of the fray, the noble host slipped down a flight of steps, and nearly fractured his skull. The contest then terminated, the young prince jumped into his phæton, and falling fast asleep, left the reins to his uncle, who, as good luck would have it, brought him safe to town.

His Majesty was much concerned when he heard of this frolic; for, as he was strictly temperate and regular in his own habits, he could not endure the least deviation from sobriety and decorum in any of his family. But though he reproved his brother for the indiscretion he had committed, the remonstrance was thrown away upon the duke, who forgot his promises as soon as he had made them.

The education of the Duke of Cumberland had been strangely neglected; abundant and disgraceful evidence of which appeared in the public exhibition of his letters to Lady Grosvenor, at the

trial in the Court of King's Bench before Lord Mansfield, when his Royal Highness had a verdict given against him for adultery.

The most remarkable circumstance attending that affair was the forbearance of the earl in not applying to Parliament for a divorce. The reason why he did not was his compliance with the desire of the King, who was afraid that his brother would marry the countess, if she should be released from the matrimonial tie. To oblige His Majesty, therefore, the earl remained with and without a wife, much to the lady's mortification. As to the duke, he was too dissipated to care any thing about his loss of the lady, or of the thirty thousand pounds, which sum was paid by his brother.

This duke being once in company with Foote, was so delighted with the wit of the player that he said, "Mr. Foote, I swallow all the good things you say."—"Do you?" replied Foote; "then your Royal Highness has an excellent digestion; for you never bring any of them up again."

On meeting Mr. Gibbon in Pall Mall, he thus

accosted him: "How d'ye do? What! at the old trade? aye, always scribble, scribble."

In 1780, the connection commenced between the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Mary Robinson, which at the time made a great noise.

That singular woman, whose maiden name was Darby, married a lawyer's clerk at the age of fifteen; and as neither had any fortune, distress soon followed indiscretion. While Robinson was in prison, Mary had recourse to her pen, and by that means gained an introduction to Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, through whose interest she obtained an engagement at Drury Lane, then under the management of Sheridan. Thus supported, and possessing an attractive person, she became a popular favorite. Her best and last character on the stage was that of Perdita, and in it she won the admiration of the prince. It is highly probable that there was a scheme in this; for there was then a party, who, to gain an ascendancy over the prince, scrupled not to pander to his love of pleasure. In fact, it appears quite unreasonable to imagine, that a boy of eighteen,

bred up under such restraint as the prince had been, however smitten with the attractions of a beautiful female, would have ventured, without some kind friend to prompt and assist him, to make such advances to a married woman, though an actress; nor could the intrigue have been carried on, and the connection matured, without very culpable connivance and encouragement from persons who ought to have been better employed. The lady herself, in the memoirs of her life, has given a very circumstantial account of the whole affair—modified, of course, so as to place her own conduct in the most favorable light, though she does not appear to have any notion of deserving censure; but the reader whose mind is impressed with due respect for the obligations of religion, morality, and law, grieves at finding the names of so many persons, distinguished for their talents and their rank in society, recorded as the open abettors of such a flagrant defiance of public decorum.

Charles James Fox and the Lord Malden brought Perdita and Florizel, as the prince was

now called, together. The immediate consequence of this was an establishment of the most splendid description for the lady, whose house and table were filled by persons of high rank and talents. At any time this would have been imprudent; but in the face of a court like that of George the Third, and at the close of a destructive and disgraceful war, it merited more than ordinary reprehension. The King felt the stroke severely; but the harshest epithet he applied to the prince was that of "a thoughtless boy!" Very different, however, were the sentiments of His Majesty respecting those whom he more than suspected as taking advantage of that thoughtlessness. He never afterwards looked upon them in any other light than that of seducers.

The connection with Mrs. Robinson lasted little more than two years; and when the separation took place, the prince settled upon her £500 a year for life; and £200 upon her daughter by Mr. Robinson.

The cause of this rupture has never been clearly explained. But it arose in fact from an

attachment of the lady to General Tarleton, and that so thinly disguised as to be quickly discovered by the prince. His Royal Highness had at the commencement of the connection given her a bond for £20,000, which was cancelled on the new settlement.

Mrs. Robinson, upon her separation from the prince, went to Paris, where she had the curiosity to attend at one of the public dinners at Versailles. The amiable queen, who was always remarkably courteous to foreigners, soon noticed the handsome Englishwoman, and paid her particular attention. Mrs. Robinson wore the portrait of the prince upon her bosom, richly ornamented with brilliants. On the following day she received a message by the Duc de Biron, conveying a request that she would lend the miniature which she had worn, to the queen for a few hours. Mrs. R. complied, and with the picture she received a purse beautifully worked by the hands of Marie Antoinette.

The extravagant folly of this woman knew no bounds; and it seemed as if she actually gloried

in her shame. Under the name of Perdita, she led the fashion in every article of dress. But one of the most extraordinary things which distinguished her short and scandalous reign, remains to be told. One night there was a large sum which had been laid upon some point at Brookes's. As the matter could not be decided, Mr. Fox proposed that the aggregate should be laid out in an elegant carriage, and given to the Perdita. The whole party being the friends of the prince, the proposal was agreed to. The lady followed up this act of folly by ordering a Vis-à-vis, having in an oval a representation of the rising sun, gilding some loose and scattered clouds; round this device was a curtain, having on the top a wreath of flowers disposed in the form of a coronet, beneath which appeared the head of a lion couchant.

Such emblematic representations on carriages were common at that time; but this was one of the most impudent pieces of meretricious blazonry ever displayed. Yet this woman was visited by most of the fashionable circle

German, and Italian. The best English writers,

of both sexes, because she was a prince's favorite!

Mary Robinson, after a life of imprudence, died, a cripple and in obscurity, in 1801. She, however, received many valuable presents from the prince, through the hands of Lord Moira, to the last.

On New-year's-day, 1781, there was a great court at St. James's. The Prince of Wales having had a separate establishment assigned him, he made his public appearance, attended by the lords and gentlemen of his bedchamber, his equerries, and other gentlemen of his suite. He received the compliments of the foreign ministers, and of the nobility, on the occasion.

As we have now come to the period of the prince's entrance into public life, it may be proper to premise a few observations on a subject so interesting to the prince himself, and to the nation, who would naturally look with much anxiety to the first public manifestations of that character, which could not fail to have a decided influence on the welfare of the country.

It has already been observed, that the chief defect of the plan of the royal education appears to have been, that no provision was made for giving the prince some insight into the affairs of actual life. The following anecdote will give some idea of the restrictions that were imposed on the prince, to prevent him from mingling with society.

About a twelvemonth before the prince attained his legal majority, he received the invitations of some of the most distinguished nobility, to make a tour through the country during the summer months; this proposal, it may be easily conceived, was eagerly accepted by the young prince, and preparations were actually made for his journey; but when the consent of his father was asked, he refused to permit the design to be carried into execution.

The Prince of Wales, when he attained his majority, was unquestionably the most accomplished young prince in Europe. Besides a correct and extensive knowledge of the ancient languages, he could converse with ease and fluency in French, German, and Italian. The best English writers,

especially the poets, were familiar to him; and his refined taste and correct judgment on all subjects relative to the Belles Lettres, have never been disputed. He was a considerable proficient in music, both vocal and instrumental, and was always considered as an excellent judge of that elegant science; and his taste in the fine arts has been as conspicuous, as the munificence with which he has encouraged them.

With all these accomplishments, the Prince Royal combined the advantages of an uncommonly handsome person, an expressive and intelligent countenance, the most polished and graceful address, the happiest mixture of conscious dignity and unaffected affability, a fascination of manner which nothing could resist, before which the voice of remonstrance was silent, and discontent was changed into a feeling of admiration.*

* The writer of these pages recollects a circumstance which strongly confirms this remark. A gentleman of great respectability, with whom the prince had had extensive dealings, and had contracted a very large debt, used to express himself, and sometimes in no very measured terms, respecting the repeated

Thus circumstanced, it cannot excite surprise that one so well qualified to enjoy the pleasures that invited him under every varied form of allure-ment and seduction—whose social qualifications were so preeminent, that even without the ad-

delays in the payment. One day, in company of several gentlemen, he declared his intention of going to Carlton House, and telling his Royal Highness how much injury he did to his own character by thus neglecting to satisfy the just demands of those to whom he was indebted. Some of the company expressed their doubts of his carrying this project into execution; and on his persisting in it, he was induced to promise to make us acquainted with the result of his visit to Carlton House. Some time afterwards, the same company having again met, he was called upon to fulfil his promise. He said, that on sending in his name, he had been immediately admitted to wait on the prince, and obeyed the summons with a full resolution to make him sensible of the unfavorable light in which his Royal Highness placed himself by his neglect of his just engagements: but that the prince had received him with so much condescension, with such an appearance of satisfaction at his visit, and conversed with him on various subjects in a manner so delightful, that he had not once thought of the business on which he had come, till he had made his obeisance on quitting the apartment.

vantages of his illustrious rank, he would have been the ornament and the delight of every company, however exalted or refined—should have preferred as his chosen associates the men with whom we see him surrounded on his very entrance into life. Among them were men of the most transcendent talents that even the annals of Britain can boast—an assemblage combining every thing that fancy, genius, wit, wisdom, and eloquence can give, to captivate, to enlighten, and to inform. Fox, Burke, Sheridan—what names are these! Their long-continued and powerful opposition to that fatal war which ended in the loss of our American empire, and an inglorious peace, had raised them to the highest degree of popularity in their own country, and fixed the eyes of Europe on their proceedings. At this important crisis, the Coalition Ministry, with the Duke of Portland at its head, though Mr. Fox was in fact the efficient minister, was at the zenith of its power—where, notwithstanding the odium excited by the union of Mr. Fox and Lord North, it might probably have maintained itself but for the celebrated India Bill introduced by Mr. Fox

in this session, which, being considered as threatening considerable restrictions of the royal authority, could not be very palatable in the highest quarter, and consequently led to the dismissal of the ministry.

Besides the three eminent men above-mentioned, the Prince of Wales honored with his particular friendship Lord Rawdon, afterwards Earl Moira, and Marquis of Hastings; Lord Hugh Seymour; and Rear-Admiral Payne, known by the name of Jack Payne, a man of the most polished manners and lively wit, who for many years held a situation in the prince's household.

It will be understood, of course, that the circle of the Prince of Wales's most intimate connections would include the principal members of both Houses of Parliament, who followed the same line in politics; and we accordingly find in the list of those whom he chiefly honored with his countenance, the Dukes of Norfolk, Bedford, Devonshire, Portland, and Northumberland; the Earls of Derby, Cholmondeley, and Fitzwilliam; and the Lords St. John, Ponsonby, Craven,

and Southampton. Among the Commoners of distinction were Mr. (afterwards Lord) Erskine, who, on the formation of his Royal Highness's establishment, was appointed to the post of attorney-general to the prince, and Messrs. Burgoyne, Coke, Crewe, Fitzpatrick, Francis, Grey, Honeywood, Knight, Lambton, Newnham, Plumer, Pigot, Taylor, Windham, and many more equally respectable in their principles and fortune. But besides these, among whom we find many of the most distinguished persons in the country for rank, talent, and virtue, there was a motley band of base flatterers and needy sycophants, brought into connection with them partly by a participation in the same political opinions, and partly by their readiness to indulge in themselves, and to encourage in others, a taste for the same vicious propensities, that so fatally obscured the glory of some of their more illustrious associates. Gambling, prize-fighting, horse-racing, and all the usual levities to which young men of fashion and fortune are liable, with all the attendant train of low company of unbounded extravagance and profusion at one time,

and at another of the most urgent pecuniary distress, and the most disgraceful shifts to remedy or to avert it—such were the drawbacks in the prince's connection with such men as Fox and Sheridan. The cup of pleasure presented by such hands was perhaps irresistible, and the prince drained it, alas! even to the dregs.

On the 23rd of June, a message from the King was communicated to the House of Lords by the Duke of Portland, and to the House of Commons by Lord John Cavendish, as chancellor of the exchequer, of the following tenor:—

“GEORGE R.

“His Majesty, reflecting on the propriety of a separate establishment for his dearly beloved son the Prince of Wales, recommends the consideration thereof to this House; relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful Commons for such aid towards making that establishment, as shall appear consistent with a due attention to the circumstances of his people, every addition to whose burthens His Majesty feels with the most sensible concern.

“G. R.”

In the debate on this message on the 25th, Lord John Cavendish informed the House, that His Majesty had graciously resolved to take upon himself the annual expense, and to allow the Prince of Wales £50,000 a year, out of the civil List: as His Majesty's own revenues were barely sufficient, it could not excite surprise that he applied to Parliament for aid to equip his son at his outset in life: the house intended for the prince had not been inhabited for a long time, and much would be required to put it in order; the prince was a young man, and it was not to be expected that he should be a great economist: in conclusion, his lordship moved that the sum of £60,000 be granted to His Majesty towards the establishment of the Prince of Wales.—In the course of the debate, attacks were made on Lord North for having, it was said, endeavoured to persuade the cabinet to propose a far larger income; and some members complimented both His Majesty for shewing such regard to the distresses of the people, and his Royal Highness for being satisfied with a smaller establishment than the minister was willing to have assigned him.—

As the Coalition Ministry included the most confidential friends of the prince, it cannot be matter of surprise that they wished to give him a settlement of £100,000 per annum, as some preceding Princes of Wales had enjoyed; but the King, at whose suggestion the smaller sum was fixed upon, was unwilling, at the close of a disastrous and expensive war, when economy was loudly called for, to increase the burthens of the public by a larger establishment for the prince, which would serve only to gratify the rapacity of parasites and flatterers, but without adding to the prince's personal comfort or dignity.

Though the arguments in favor of this smaller income were undoubtedly very plausible, it was argued by many, that by treating the prince with ill-judged and unmerited parsimony, and placing him in a worse situation than former Princes of Wales, and that too when the value of every article was much increased, would not only excite unpleasant feelings in the mind of his Royal Highness himself, but would probably, at no very remote period, subject him to inconveniences and embarrassments from the scanti-

ness of his income; that it would therefore be, in the end, more economical to make at once such a liberal provision as might totally supersede the necessity of incurring debts. It was on these grounds that the ministers would have made the allowance £100,000 per annum. The King, however, not only disapproved this proposal, but rejected it with such expressions of marked resentment, that the immediate resignation of the ministers was for a moment very probable.

In this emergency, the Prince of Wales interposed, and gave the world, upon this, his first step in public life, a striking proof both of filial duty and public spirit. He signified his desire, that the whole business should be left to his father; and declared his readiness to accept of whatever provision the King in his wisdom and goodness might think most fit; and, at the same time, he expressed his earnest wishes, that no misunderstanding should arise between the King and his ministers, on account of any arrangement, in which his personal interest only was concerned.

At the opening of Parliament on the 11th of

November, 1783, his Royal Highness was introduced into the House of Peers, on which occasion the following ceremonial was observed:—

“His Royal Highness having been, by letters patent, dated the 19th day of August, in the second year of His Majesty’s reign, created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, was, in his robes, (which with the collar and order of the Garter he had put on in the earl-marshal’s room,) introduced into the House of Peers in the following order:

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, with his staff of office.

Earl of Surry,

Deputy Earl Marshal of England.

Lord Privy Seal.

Garter Principal King of Arms, in his Robe, with the Sceptre, bearing his Royal Highness’s Patent.

Sir Peter Burrel,

Deputy Great Chamberlain of England.

Viscount Stormont,

Lord President of the Council.

The Coronet,
 On a crimson velvet cushion,
 Borne by Viscount Lewisham, one of the gentlemen of
 his Royal Highness's Bedchamber.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,
 Carrying his Writ of Summons, supported by his Uncle,
 the Duke of Cumberland, and the Dukes of
 Richmond and Portland.

“ And proceeding up the House with the usual
 reverences, the writ and patent were delivered to
 the Earl of Mansfield, speaker, on the woolsack,
 and read by the clerk of the Parliament at the
 table, his Royal Highness and the rest of the
 procession standing near: after which his Royal
 Highness was conducted to his chair on the right
 hand of the throne, the coronet and cushion
 having been laid on a stool before the chair; and
 his Royal Highness being covered as usual, the
 ceremony ended.

“ Some time after His Majesty entered the
 House of Peers, and was seated on the throne
 with the usual solemnities, and having delivered

his most gracious speech, retired out of the House.

“Then his Royal Highness at the table took the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and made, and subscribed the declaration; and also took and subscribed the oath of abjuration.”

On the formation of the prince's establishment, the residence assigned to him was Carlton House, Pall Mall, which, however, required very great and expensive alterations and improvements, before it could be considered as a suitable abode for the heir-apparent of the British throne. The repairs were commenced in 1783, under the direction of Mr. Holland, who also held, till his death, the appointment of Architect to his Royal Highness. Though the general effect of the exterior of Carlton House was deficient in unity of character, and was severely criticised, the excellency of the internal arrangements, and the beauty of many parts, did great credit to the architect, particularly when we consider the difficulty of altering and modernising so extensive an edifice.

The estate formerly belonged to the celebrated

Earl of Burlington, and was purchased in 1732 for Frederick, Prince of Wales, who usually held his court here till within a few days before his death; and here too the Princess Dowager of Wales continued to reside, not only during the reign of His Majesty George II., but likewise under that of her son, George III. to the time of her death in 1772. It was here that George III. held his first council, on his accession to the throne.

After the death of the Princess Dowager of Wales, it remained unoccupied; and at the time that it was selected for the residence of the prince, in 1783, it had fallen into a state of dilapidation which rendered a thorough and substantial repair absolutely indispensable.

On the 21st of the same month, his Royal Highness was sworn of the Privy Council.

It was unfortunate for the prince, and proved the ruin of his party, that his first vote in the House of Lords should be in favor of Fox's India Bill, in December, 1783. The King saw, or fancied he saw, an opposition organizing against him, headed by his son. He expressed his con-

cern that the prince should so soon take the lead in political measures of the greatest magnitude. He thought that "the loss of one settlement in the West would be a warning, without risking our possessions in the East." Upon this the prince retraced his steps, and did not appear again in the House upon this question.

The failure of Mr. Fox's celebrated India Bill was soon followed by the breaking up of the administration of which he was the soul. When, after the lapse of nearly half a century, we take an impartial view of all the circumstances connected with this bill, it does not appear that the rejection of it in the Upper House should in itself have sufficed to produce the signal effects that in fact resulted from it. But the popularity of the minister with whom it originated was totally and for ever lost and annihilated by that ill-advised and astonishing coalition, which was at the time the theme of universal and vehement execration. "There are, no doubt," says an able writer, "situations of extraordinary difficulty and danger, which call for the united exertions of those who have been most opposite in sentiments

and conduct; but the nation was not at this time disposed to believe that any such danger or difficulty existed; and the coalition of persons and principles radically hostile, and which no effort of art, or length of time, could assimilate, was universally branded as a gross and palpable sacrifice of every sentiment of honor, consistency, and rectitude."

Whatever may have been the motives that impelled Mr. Fox to such a union with Lord North, the consequences were highly injurious to himself and to the country, and have fully borne out the prediction of Lord Camden, who, on receiving the intelligence of it, said to a nobleman of the highest rank, "There is now an end of all public confidence in public men; ministers for the next half century are freed from all restraint, and may bid defiance to all opposition." By this unhappy step, Mr. Fox, whose commanding talents, political wisdom, and real patriotism, ought to have placed him in the highest situation in the service of his country, was condemned to remain for nearly his whole remaining life the leader of an able, but inefficient opposition to a highly popular

minister, who, with talents equal to his own, with more lofty ambition, and the advantage of a private character unsullied by any vice, had gained a hold on the minds of the people which he retained for the long period of more than twenty years.

Another result of this affair was the estrangement of the Prince of Wales from the King his father. The whigs being personally as well as politically odious to His Majesty, the friendship with which they were honored by the heir-apparent could not fail to be highly offensive to him, and was undoubtedly one of the causes of that want of cordiality, which, notwithstanding the exalted domestic virtues of our revered sovereign, and the truly filial respect always shewn to him by his son, was but too manifest on many occasions. On the other hand, however the whigs might be flattered with the countenance of the prince, the political advantage which they were likely to derive from the connection was probably much overrated by them; and on the whole, there is much truth in the following observations of a popular writer:

“That a young prince, fond of pleasure and impatient of restraint, should have thrown himself into the arms of those who were most likely to be indulgent to his errors, is nothing surprising either in politics or ethics. But that mature and enlightened statesmen, with the lessons of all history before their eyes, should have been equally ready to embrace such a rash alliance, or should count upon it as any more than a temporary instrument of faction, is, to say the least of it, one of those self-delusions of the wise, which shew how vainly the voice of the past may speak amid the loud appeals and temptations of the present.

“In some points, the breach that now took place between the prince and the King bore a close resemblance to that which had disturbed the preceding reign. In both cases, the royal parents were harsh and obstinate—in both cases money was the chief source of dissension—and in both cases the genius, wit, and accomplishments of those with whom the heir-apparent connected himself, threw a splendor round the political bond between them, which prevented even

themselves from perceiving its looseness and fragility."

In this same year that extraordinary personage, Philip, Duke de Chartres, afterwards of Orleans, celebrated during the French revolution by the name of Philippe Egalité, visited England, and for two months became the constant companion of the Prince of Wales. He had before this affected the English dress and style of living to a degree that rendered him ridiculous. How a man so utterly unprincipled could gain the confidence of the prince, is not easy to say. The duke was rich, profuse, and gay to excess. At Carlton House he was almost an inmate, and numerous entertainments of the most splendid kind were given to do him honor. Sir Joshua Reynolds was employed to paint his portrait, which was said to be one of the best ever executed by that admirable artist. A few years since, when a fire broke out at Carlton House, this fine painting received great damage.

It was observed that when the Duke returned to Paris the bucks there, who had before a turn for English manners and dress, became perfect

heretics in fashion, being jockey clad in the New-market style, and wearing the Prince of Wales's boots and buckskins.

Another French personage of distinction, who about this time, made England his retreat, and obtained the friendship of the Prince of Wales, was the Duke de Lauzun, better known by his subsequent title of Duke de Biron. He had served in America with La Fayette, and there became acquainted with Lord Rawdon.

At the close of the war, he became possessed of a small villa at Mont-rouge, in the vicinity of Paris. It was completely fitted up in the English style, and was the scene of great festivity. The Duke de Chartres followed the example of Lauzun, at his palace of Monceau, which was tenanted by English domestics. English liberty was extolled, and French despotism reprobated, by which means the revolutionary spirit was spread among the inferior classes of society.

Lauzun's extravagant habits soon involved him in difficulties, and the revolution increased them. He then repaired to England, and while here succeeded to the title and estate of his uncle,

the Duke de Biron; but the one was empty, and the other was locked up by the hand of anarchy. Being involved in debts he could not clear, he was arrested, and confined some weeks in the house of a sheriff's officer. In this embarrassment, he made known his case to the Earl of Moira, who liberated him, with the assistance of the prince.

Biron then returned to France, where he renewed his friendship with the Duke of Orleans, now citizen Egalité; and by his advice he took the command of the revolutionary army of La Vendée. But being considered inactive and aristocratic, he was recalled to Paris, deprived, and guillotined.

On the 10th of March, 1784, the internal alterations at Carlton House being finished, the prince gave a grand ball to the principal nobility and gentry.

On the 18th of May the Prince of Wales had a public breakfast at Carlton House. About six hundred persons assembled in the gardens at two o'clock. The preparations were very magnificent; covers were laid under nine marquées for two hundred and fifty persons; and the refresh-

ments consisted of the finest fruits of the season, confectionaries, ices, creams, and ornamental designs. After the company had taken refreshments, they rose to dance. A beautiful level, in the shade of a group of trees, was the spot selected for the ball, which was opened by the prince and the Duchess of Devonshire, then the leading star of the fashionable hemisphere. The breakfast ended at six!!

On Saturday, 14th of April, the Prince of Wales was admitted a member of the Beef-steak Club. His Royal Highness having signified his wish of belonging to this society, and there not being a vacancy, it was proposed to make him an honorary member; but that being declined, it was agreed to increase the number from twenty-four to twenty-five, in consequence of which his Royal Highness was unanimously elected. The beef-steak club had been instituted just fifty years, and consisted of some of the most classical and sprightly wits in the kingdom. In the great fire which lately consumed the English Opera-house and several adjoining buildings, the Beef-steak Club-house, with all its furniture, and the records of the society, was destroyed.

Some time after the rupture of the prince's intercourse with Mrs. Robinson, his Royal Highness formed an acquaintance with a lady of the name of Fitzherbert; and about the beginning of the year 1786 this new connection became sufficiently public to afford matter for general discourse. This lady was several years older than the prince; but, though rather *en-bon-point*, still possessed considerable personal attractions, united with dignified manners and great accomplishments. She was in the enjoyment of a handsome income, and had always borne an irreproachable character. Her family was respectable; she was the daughter of W. Smythe, Esq. of Tonge Castle, and niece to Sir Edward Smythe, Bart. of Acton Burnel, in the county of Salop, and distantly related to the noble family of Sefton, in the kingdom of Ireland. Her sister was married to Sir Carnaby Haggerstone, Bart. Before the age of twenty, she married John Weld, Esq. of Lulworth Castle, Dorsetshire, a widower. After his death she became the wife of Mr. Fitzherbert, of Swinerton, in Staffordshire. This gentleman being in London during the riots in 1780, was among the

spectators of the destruction of the house of Lord Mansfield. On this occasion he over-heated himself, and at his return home had the imprudence to go into a cold bath, which caused his death. Mrs. Fitzherbert then went to Italy, and soon after her return from that country, attracted the notice of the prince at Brighton. The manner in which the parties behaved to each other, publicly and privately, excited great surprise, and it was at length first whispered, and then confidently asserted, that to silence the lady's scruples, the ceremony of marriage had been celebrated between them according to the ritual of the Church of Rome, to which communion she belonged. Though the story was on the face of it sufficiently absurd, since those scruples could not be very great which might be removed by the performance of a ceremony notoriously illegal and illusory, it however gained so much credit as to be noticed in the House of Commons, as we shall presently see.

A few years' experience had rendered it but too manifest that the income allowed for the support of his Royal Highness was inadequate to the

purpose, as had been foreseen by Mr. Fox and others at the time when the settlement was made. In 1786, it appeared that the prince had contracted debts to the amount of £100,000, besides £50,000 and upwards expended on Carlton House. His Royal Highness's conduct on this occasion was such as did great honor to the rectitude of his heart, and to the firmness and vigor of his mind. His first application was to the King his father, declaring at the same time, that, if any part of his conduct were thought improper, he would alter it, and conform to the wishes of His Majesty, in every thing that became him as a gentleman. The King, on receiving this dutiful communication, desired that a statement of the prince's affairs might be laid before him; but (whether from any dissatisfaction with these accounts, or with other parts of the prince's conduct, or some other cause, has not transpired) a direct refusal to afford him any assistance was conveyed to his Royal Highness on the 4th of July, by the medium of Lord Southampton, Groom of the Stole to his Royal Highness. On this refusal, the prince conceived himself

bound in honor to adopt the only expedient that was now left to him. He then resolved to suppress the establishment of his household, to abridge himself of every superfluous expense, and to set apart a sum of £40,000 per annum for the liquidation of his debts.

But the Prince of Wales's notions of equity were far from stopping here. His Royal Highness had hitherto indulged in a passion, frequent among persons of high rank—that of training running horses for Newmarket, and other places of public amusement of the same kind. But in this emergency, he scrupled not a moment to give up a favorite and an innocent relaxation, the more speedily to satisfy the claims of his creditors. Accordingly, his racing stud, which had been formed with great judgment and expense, and was looked upon as one of the most complete in the kingdom, his hunters, and even his coach-horses, were sold by public auction, and produced to the amount of seven thousand guineas. At the same time the buildings and interior decorations of Carlton House were stopped, and some of the most considerable rooms shut up from use. The

number of his attendants was also diminished; but, with that thoughtfulness and kind consideration which always distinguish a truly generous mind, care was taken to settle pensions on those who would have otherwise been reduced to distress on quitting the prince's service. As he was a kind, provident, and indulgent master, so no prince was ever more cordially and zealously beloved by his servants. On this occasion many of them made him a voluntary offer of their services, free from every expense; and it was not without tears of reluctance, soothed with the promise of being taken into his service again, whenever his circumstances would admit of the re-establishment of his household, that these humble but faithful retainers were prevailed on to quit the palace of their much-loved master.

This conduct, however laudable, did not escape censure. It was represented, especially by the followers of the court, as precipitate, and disrespectful to the King, and probably contributed to increase the distance which too long subsisted between the prince and his father. After the attempt on the King's life, in August, 1786, by

Margaret Nicholson, a remarkable proof was given of the displeasure which the prince had incurred. No notice whatever of the affair was sent to him from the court. He learned it at Brighton from a private correspondent. He immediately hastened to Windsor, where he was received by the Queen, but the King did not see him.

While his Royal Highness was in this situation of embarrassment, the Duke of Orleans, who was then on a second visit to this country, pressed him in the strongest manner to accept a loan from him, till some favorable change should take place in his circumstances. The prince appears to have accepted the offer; but his Highness's political friends being informed of the plan, convinced him of the impropriety and danger of placing himself in a state of dependence on a French prince. The negotiations in this extraordinary affair must have proceeded farther than has been supposed, as appears from the two following letters from the Duke of Portland to Mr. Sheridan, inserted by Mr. Moore in his life of that remarkable man.

"Sunday, Noon, 13th Dec."

"DEAR SHERIDAN,

"Since I saw you, I have received a confirmation of the intelligence which was the subject of our conversation. The particulars varied in no respect from those I related to you, except in the addition of a pension, which is to take place immediately on the event, which entitles the creditors to payment, and is to be granted for life to a nominee of the Duke of O——s. The loan was mentioned in a mixed company, by two of the Frenchwomen and a Frenchman (none of whose names I know), in *Calonne's* presence, who interrupted them, by asking how they came to know any thing of the matter, then set them right in two or three particulars which they had misstated, and afterwards begged them, for God's sake, not to talk of it, because it might be their complete ruin.

"I am going to Bulstrode, but will return at a moment's notice, if I can be of the least use in getting rid of this odious engagement, or prevent its being entered into, if it should not be yet completed.

"Your's ever,

"P."

“DEAR SHERIDAN,

“I think myself much obliged to you for what you have done. I hope I am not too sanguine in looking to a good conclusion of this bad business. I will certainly be in town by two o'clock.

“Your's ever,

“P.

“*Bulstrode, Monday, 14th Dec.*

“9, A. M.”

It is said that the Duke of Orleans was so affronted at the termination of the affair, that he never spoke to the prince afterwards.

Under these circumstances, it was judged expedient to appeal to the justice and generosity of Parliament. Mr. Sheridan, who stood very high in the prince's confidence, had twice in the year 1786 alluded to his Royal Highness's embarrassments, which were in truth sufficiently notorious from the steps that he had himself so laudably adopted in the retrenchment of his expenses. The opposition were certainly ready to avail themselves of the advantage which the natural discontent of the prince would give

them; and accordingly, on the 20th of April, 1787, Mr. Alderman Newnham brought the subject formally before the House of Commons, by asking Mr. Pitt whether he intended to propose any measure to raise the prince from his embarrassed situation. Mr. Pitt having replied that it was not his duty to bring forward such a subject except by His Majesty's commands, and that therefore he need not return any answer, further than that His Majesty had not honored him with any such commands, Mr. Newnham gave notice that he should bring it regularly before the House, by a motion, on the 4th of May.

Meantime the prince's friends exerted themselves to obtain the support of the independent members of Parliament to the intended motion; and at several meetings held for the purpose, their numbers were so considerable that Mr. Pitt became seriously alarmed, and on the 24th of April, after requesting Mr. Newnham to inform the House more particularly of the nature of his motion, adverted to the extreme delicacy of the subject; and declared that the knowledge which he possessed of many circumstances relating to

it, made him extremely anxious to prevent the discussion of it. Should Mr. N. persist, it would be necessary to lay those circumstances before the public. In the course of this debate, Mr. Rolle, member for Devonshire, a strong adherent of the minister, deprecated the agitation of the question, declaring that it involved matter *essentially affecting the Constitution both in church and state*. These words were well known to allude to the rumoured marriage between the prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert. A considerable alarm was excited by this mention of the subject. Had any such ceremony taken place, it is certain that the Royal Marriage Act would have reduced it to a mere vain form, which could have no legal force, and could have served no other purpose than that of satisfying the scruples of one of the parties. But there was another point of view in which the friends of the prince and the country found reasonable ground of alarm. The Bill of Rights says, "Every person who shall marry a Papist, shall be for ever incapable of inheriting the crown of this realm, and in such a case the people of these

realms shall be, and are hereby absolved from their allegiance." This statute, therefore, contemplates such a marriage as a legal and binding act, the performance of which however incurs a forfeiture of a certain right. The Marriage Act, prohibiting the members of the royal family from contracting any marriage without His Majesty's consent, before the age of twenty-five, undoubtedly would have nullified the marriage in question, if it had been performed; but did the illegality of the act exempt the party from the penalty attached to it by the Bill of Rights? This is a question which is not decided; and it is certain that there are cases in law from which, by analogy, it might be answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Newnham stated on the 27th of April, that what he intended was to move an address to His Majesty, praying him to take into consideration the embarrassed situation of the prince, and to give his Royal Highness such relief as he might think fit, pledging the house to make it good.

Several members on both sides expressed their wish that the matter might be arranged in some

other manner. Mr. Sheridan, referring to the former debate, declared that the prince had no wish to conceal any part of his conduct, or to prevent its being fully discussed and explained. Mr. Rolle repeated his observations, and Mr. Pitt said that the circumstances to which he had alluded, related only to the pecuniary affairs of the prince; and that he had no idea of insinuating any thing injurious to his Royal Highness's character.

On the 30th, Alderman Newnham announced by the prince's express desire, that he should pursue his design; and Mr. Fox, who was not present when the subject was before mentioned, now declared that he had the authority of the prince to contradict the report of the marriage in the fullest and most unqualified terms:—it was, Mr. Fox said, “a miserable calumny, a low malicious falsehood, which had been propagated without doors, and made the wanton sport of the vulgar—a tale, fit only to impose on the lowest orders; a monstrous invention, the report of a fact which had not the smallest foundation, and *actually impossible to have happened.*”

This, however, was mere declamation, and Mr. Rolle was so little convinced by it, that he reminded the honorable gentleman of the act which forbade such a marriage, and observed that though it could not be legally done, there were ways in which it might have taken place, and in which, in the minds of some persons, that law might have been satisfactorily evaded. Fox upon this grew warmer, and said, "he did not deny the calumny merely with regard to certain existing laws, but that he denied it *in toto*: it not only never could have happened legally, but it never did happen in any way whatsoever, and had from the beginning been a base and malicious falsehood."

The favorable impression which the debate, the open and manly conduct of the prince, and the harshness with which he had been treated in his most private and personal concerns, left upon the minds of men both within and without the doors of Parliament, appear to have made the minister apprehend, that when the question came to be debated, he might be left in a minority. Overtures were made to the prince to adjust the busi-

ness by private negociation; and by the King's desire Mr. Pitt had an interview on the 3rd of May, at Carlton House, with his Royal Highness, at which the latter was informed that if the intended motion were withdrawn, every thing might be settled to his satisfaction. Accordingly, the next day (the 4th) Alderman Newnham, in a very crowded House, said that he had the happiness to acquaint the House that his intended motion was no longer necessary.

On the 21st, a message from the King stated His Majesty's concern at having to inform the two Houses that the Prince of Wales had incurred debts to a larger amount than could be discharged from his annual income, without rendering it impossible for him to support his rank; that His Majesty had a well-grounded expectation, that the prince would avoid contracting any debts in future; and that His Majesty had devoted an additional sum of £10,000 per annum to be paid from his civil list.

The House, on the following day, resolved on an address to His Majesty, assenting to the proposition for the augmentation of the prince's

income by £10,000 yearly out of the civil list; recommending an issue from the civil list of £161,000 for the discharge of his debts, and £20,000 more on account of the works at Carlton House, promising to make the same good. But neither were the debts paid, nor the works finished.

To return to the alleged marriage: The dispassionate reader cannot help seeing how equivocal the declaration of Mr. Fox is; and as a proof that he carried his zeal farther than he was warranted, it is a known fact that Mrs. Fitzherbert considered herself wronged; on which account she never would, to his dying day, exchange with him one word; and when they chanced to meet, she always rose and indignantly left the room.

The prince himself was troubled at the embarrassment in which the zeal of Mr. Fox had involved him, but how to extricate himself was the difficulty; a public explanatory retraction of what had been so peremptorily asserted, would have cast a reflection upon Fox, and have made the matter still more alarmingly serious than it was; and to ask him to disavow his own statement, was out of the question. The lady, however,

demanded justice, and she had a right to it. "In this exigency," says a popular writer,* "application was made to Mr. Grey, (now Lord Grey,) who was then fast rising into the eminence which he has since so nobly sustained, and whose answer to the proposal is said to have betrayed some of that unaccommodating high-mindedness, which, in more than one collision with royalty, has proved him but an unfit adjunct to a court. The reply to this refusal was, 'Then I must get Sheridan to say something;'—and hence, it seems, was the origin of those few dexterously unmeaning compliments with which the latter, when the motion of Alderman Newnham was withdrawn, endeavoured, without in the least degree weakening the declaration of Mr. Fox, to restore that equilibrium of temper and self-esteem, which such a sacrifice of gallantry to expediency had naturally disturbed. In alluding to the offer of the prince, through Mr. Fox, to answer any questions upon the subject of his reported mar-

* Moore—Life of Sheridan.

riage, which it might be thought proper to put to him in the House, Mr. Sheridan said, 'That no such idea had been pursued, and no such inquiry had been adopted, was a point which did credit to the decorum, the feelings, and the dignity of Parliament. But whilst his Royal Highness's feelings had no doubt been considered on this occasion, he must take the liberty of saying, however some might think it a subordinate consideration, that there was another person entitled, in every delicate and honorable mind, to the same attention; one whom he would not otherwise venture to describe or allude to, but by saying it was a name, which malice or ignorance alone could attempt to injure, and whose character and conduct claimed and were entitled to the truest respect.'"

All this only shewed the perplexity in which the prince's friends stood; and, it may be said, their total inability to dispel the doubt which rested on the public mind.

Nor were the near relatives of the lady in a more pleasant condition. They felt for the honor

of their family in general, as well as for that of the person who had stood in so ambiguous a situation. As, however, the public disclosure of what would be illegal under any circumstances, must be painfully disagreeable to all parties, it was deemed wisest to preserve silence. But though the matter died away, the independent part of the nation was not satisfied; and at a future period, when the question of the regency was agitated, Mr. (now Lord) Rolle brought the subject again upon the carpet, in some of the stormy debates occasioned by that struggle for power. Since then little has been said of the real nature of the connection. But it is worthy of notice, that the brother-in-law of Mrs. Fitzherbert, who inherits the estates of her first husband, has recently been raised to the dignity of Cardinal, if not precisely through British influence, yet not improbably in some measure out of compliment to His Majesty. This is a circumstance that hereafter will furnish matter of history.

Mrs. Fitzherbert is now in her seventy-

fifth year, and resides at Brighton, in the enjoyment of the annuity of £10,000 settled on her by the prince.

The next occasion on which the Prince of Wales came more particularly before the public was on the alarming indisposition of the King, towards the close of the year 1788. The first symptoms of his disorder appeared in the beginning of October, and increased so much as to render it necessary to defer the levee at St. James's on the 17th, which was, however, held on the 24th, His Majesty being well enough to appear at it. On the 4th of November he had a relapse, and the disorder gaining strength, orders were given on the 13th to the Archbishop of Canterbury to compose a form of prayer for His Majesty's recovery; and circular letters were sent to the members of the two Houses of Parliament, earnestly requesting their attendance on the 20th of November, to which day the Parliament stood prorogued. On their assembling, formal notice of the King's illness was given to the Lords by the chancellor, and to the Commons by Mr. Pitt; and as the session could not be

opened in the regular mode, an adjournment of fourteen days was recommended, at the expiration of which, should the King's illness unhappily continue, it would be their duty immediately to enter into the consideration of public affairs. Parliament met again on the 4th of December, and received a report from the privy council, containing an examination of the royal physicians; with which, considering the extreme delicacy of the subject, it was resolved to rest satisfied, without any more express and direct information, especially as the examinations of the council had been taken on oath, which the House of Commons had no power to administer.

"The situation of affairs," says an able writer, "was at this period singularly critical. The Prince of Wales, into whose hands the government of the country was soon likely to fall, retained a deep resentment against the present ministers for their recent conduct respecting him, and took no pains to conceal his decided predilection for the person and politics of Mr. Fox. This distinguished leader, on the earliest intelligence of the King's indisposition, had returned

from a summer excursion to the continent with incredible expedition; and in contemplation of an approaching change, a new arrangement of administration was already believed to be formed, consisting of the principal members of the former Coalition Ministry, Lord North only excepted, and of which the Duke of Portland was to be once more the ostensible head. The policy of opposition seemed evidently repugnant to every idea of unnecessary delay. Yet doubts were unaccountably started by Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, and others of the same party, whether Parliament could, in this momentous case, dispense with that sort of evidence on which they had been accustomed to proceed. The validity of the objection was very faintly contested, and a committee of twenty-one persons in each House, appointed, after no long debate, to examine and report the sentiments of the royal physicians. The report of the committee was laid upon the table of the House of Commons on the 10th of December; when a motion was made by Mr. Pitt, for the appointment of another committee to inspect the journals for precedents of such

proceedings as had been adopted in former instances, when the sovereign authority was suspended by sickness, infirmity, or any other cause.

“Mr. Fox, probably sensible of the error he had committed in the first instance, now opposed with energy the present motion, as calculated only for delay. With respect to precedents, there were, he said, notoriously none which applied to the present instance; and he affirmed, that all that was requisite to their ultimate decision had been obtained by the report now lying on their table. By that report they had ascertained the incapacity of the sovereign. And he advanced as a proposition deducible from the principles of the constitution, and the analogy of the law of hereditary succession, that whenever the sovereign was incapable of exercising the functions of his high office, the heir-apparent, if of full age and capacity, had as indisputable a claim to the exercise of the executive authority, in the name and on the behalf of the sovereign, during his incapacity, as in the case of his natural demise.”

This imprudent assertion of right gave to

Mr. Pitt an advantage which he immediately seized, and never lost during the further discussion of this memorable question. He stigmatized such an assertion as nearly equivalent to treason against the constitution, and, running into the opposite extreme, affirmed that, in a case like the present, the Prince of Wales had no more right to exercise the power of government than any other person in the kingdom, and that it was for the other branches of the legislature to provide a substitute for the royal authority. This unqualified proposition was in fact as erroneous as that of Mr. Fox, but it gave Pitt the incalculable advantage of shewing himself the advocate of popular rights, while Mr. Fox appeared incautiously to have abandoned the cause of which he had ever been the most able, zealous, and consistent advocate. Mr. Fox not choosing to take the sense of the House, Mr. Pitt's motion for precedents was carried without a division.

A similar motion was made the next day by Lord Camden in the House of Peers, and the doctrine of Mr. Fox reprobated by his lordship with great severity. It was on the other hand

defended with eloquence by Lord Loughborough and Lord Stormont, the latter concluding his speech with recommending an immediate address to the Prince of Wales, intreating him to assume the exercise of the royal authority. The discussion of the abstract question of right being perceived to afford a great and unexpected advantage to the ministry, the Duke of York, soon after this debate, speaking in the name of the prince, expressed his wishes "that the question might be waved. No claim of right," his Highness said, "had been advanced by the Prince of Wales; and he was confident that his brother too well understood the sacred principles which seated the House of Brunswick upon the throne, ever to assume or exercise any power, be his claim what it might, that was not derived from the will of the people, expressed by their representatives."

Lord Thurlow, who had at first consented to take a part in the new administration, in which he was to have had the post of Lord President, now began to vary in his policy, and to speak of the disgrace of deserting the sovereign in his present distressed situation. His own debt of

gratitude, he said, was ample, and “when he forgot his King, might God forget him;” this undoubtedly sounds very well; but we apprehend that no great breach of charity will be committed, by assenting to the vehement suspicion of his contemporaries, that Thurlow, who understood his own interest as well as any man, had some good reasons for suspecting that the King’s recovery was an event that might be expected soon to take place.

On the 16th of December, in the committee on the state of the nation, Mr. Pitt moved two declaratory resolutions, importing—1st, The interruption of the royal authority;—2nd, That it was the duty of the two Houses of Parliament to provide the means of supplying that defect. A most stormy debate ensued, after which the resolution was carried on a division by 268 against 204 voices. This great point being gained, the ministers proceeded, without hesitation or delay, to carry their plans into execution, in which they were supported by the great majority of the nation.

On a dispassionate review of the events of this

remarkable period, it cannot but be acknowledged that the conduct of the Prince of Wales did great credit to his judgment and his principles. On the adjournment of the two Houses for a fortnight after the King's illness was announced, a very judicious letter was addressed to the prince by Mr. Sheridan, which, with other very curious letters from Admiral Payne to Mr. Sheridan, are published by Mr. Moore in his life of the latter. We do not think it necessary to enter any farther into the merits of the question, or to detail the plan at length decided upon by the ministry, but must introduce the correspondence between Mr. Pitt and the Prince of Wales on the subject:—

*Letter from the Right Honorable William Pitt to
the Prince of Wales, December 30.*

“SIR,

“The proceedings in Parliament being now brought to a point which will render it necessary to propose to the House of Commons, the particular measures to be taken for supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal autho-

rity, during the present interval, and your Royal Highness having some time since signified your pleasure, that any communication on this subject should be in writing, I take the liberty of respectfully intreating your Royal Highness's permission to submit to your consideration the outlines of the plan, which His Majesty's confidential servants humbly conceive (according to the best judgment which they are able to form) to be proper to be proposed in the present circumstances.

It is their humble opinion, that your Royal Highness should be empowered to exercise the royal authority, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, during His Majesty's illness, and to do all acts which might legally be done by His Majesty; with provisions, nevertheless, that the care of His Majesty's royal person, and the management of His Majesty's household, and the direction and appointment of the officers and servants therein, should be in the Queen, under such regulations as may be thought necessary.— That the power to be exercised by your Royal Highness should not extend to the granting the

real or personal property of the King, (except as far as relates to the renewal of leases,) to the granting any office in reversion, or to the granting, for any other term than during His Majesty's pleasure, any pension, or any office whatever, except such as must by law be granted for life, or during good behaviour; nor to the granting any rank or dignity of the peerage of this realm to any person except His Majesty's issue, who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years.

“These are the chief points which have occurred to His Majesty's servants. I beg leave to add, that their ideas are formed on the supposition that His Majesty's illness is only temporary, and may be of no long duration. It may be difficult to fix beforehand, the precise period for which these provisions ought to last; but if unfortunately His Majesty's recovery should be protracted to a more distant period than there is reason at present to imagine, it will be open hereafter to the wisdom of Parliament, to reconsider these provisions, whenever the circumstances appear to call for it.

“If your Royal Highness should be pleased to

require any farther explanation on the subject, and should condescend to signify your orders, that I should have the honor of attending your Royal Highness for that purpose, or to intimate any other mode in which your Royal Highness may wish to receive such explanation, I shall respectfully wait your Royal Highness's commands.

"I have the honor to be, with the utmost deference and submission,

"Sir,

"Your Royal Highness's

"Most dutiful and devoted servant,

"W. PITT.

"*Downing-street, Tuesday Night,*

"*December 30, 1788.*"

Answer to the foregoing Letter, delivered by His Royal Highness to the Lord Chancellor, January 1, 1789.

"The Prince of Wales learns from Mr. Pitt's letter, that the proceedings in Parliament are now in a train which enables Mr. Pitt, according

to the intimation in his former letter, to communicate to the prince the outlines of the plan which His Majesty's confidential servants conceive to be proper to be proposed in the present circumstances.

“Concerning the steps already taken by Mr. Pitt, the prince is silent. Nothing done by the two Houses of Parliament can be a proper subject of his animadversion; but when, previously to any discussion in Parliament, the outlines of a scheme of government are sent for his consideration, in which it is proposed that he shall be personally and principally concerned, and by which the royal authority and the public welfare may be deeply affected, the prince would be unjustifiable, were he to withhold an explicit declaration of his sentiments. His silence might be construed into a previous approbation of a plan, the accomplishment of which every motive of duty to his father and sovereign, as well as of regard for the public interest, obliges him to consider as injurious to both.

“In the state of deep distress, in which the prince and the whole royal family were involved,

by the heavy calamity which has fallen upon the King, and at a moment when government, deprived of its chief energy and support, seemed peculiarly to need the cordial and united aid of all descriptions of good subjects, it was not expected by the prince, that a plan should be offered to his consideration, by which government was to be rendered difficult, if not impracticable, in the hands of any person intended to represent the King's authority, much less in the hands of his eldest son—the heir-apparent of his kingdoms, and the person most bound to the maintenance of His Majesty's just prerogatives and authority, as well as most interested in the happiness, the prosperity, and the glory of the people.

“The prince forbears to remark on the several parts of the sketch of the plan laid before him; he apprehends it must have been formed with sufficient deliberation to preclude the probability of any argument of his producing an alteration of sentiment in the projectors of it. But he trusts, with confidence, to the wisdom and justice of Parliament, when the whole of this subject, and

the circumstances connected with it, shall come under their deliberation.

“He observes, therefore, only generally on the heads communicated by Mr. Pitt—and it is with deep regret the prince makes the observation—that he sees in the contents of that paper, a project for producing weakness, disorder, and insecurity, in every branch of the administration of affairs—a project for dividing the royal family from each other; for separating the court from the state; and therefore, by disjoining government from its natural and accustomed support, a scheme for disconnecting the authority to command service, from the power of animating it by reward; and for allotting to the prince all the invidious duties of government, without the means of softening them to the public, by any one act of grace, favor, or benignity.

“The prince’s feelings on contemplating this plan, are also rendered still more painful to him, by observing that it is not founded on any general principle, but is calculated to infuse jealousies and suspicions (wholly groundless, he trusts) in

that quarter, whose confidence it will ever be the first pride of his life to merit and obtain.

“With regard to the motive and object of the limitations and restrictions proposed, the prince can have but little to observe. No light or information is offered him by His Majesty’s ministers on these points. They have informed him *what* the powers are which they mean to refuse him, not *why* they are withheld.

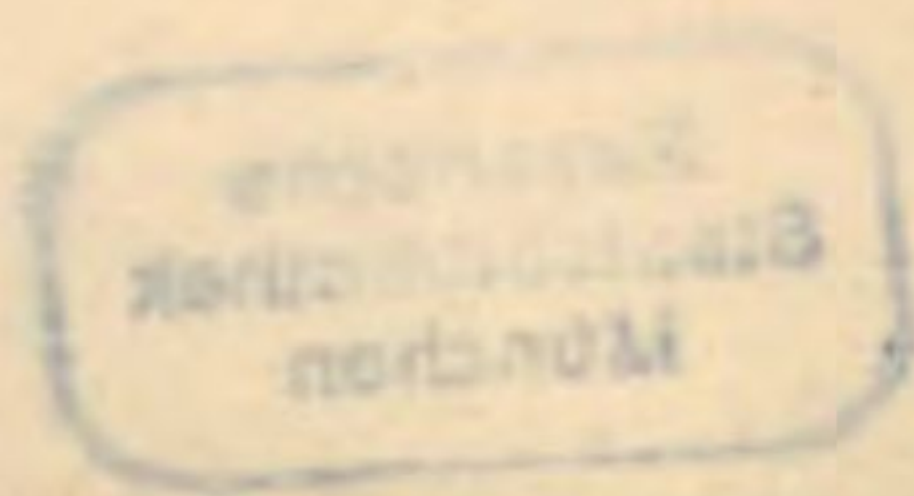
“The prince, however, holding, as he does, that it is an undoubted and fundamental principle of this constitution, that the powers and prerogatives of the crown are vested there, as a trust for the benefit of the people; and that they are sacred only as they are necessary to the preservation of that poise and balance of the constitution, which experience has proved to be the true security of the liberty of the subject—must be allowed to observe, that the plea of public utility ought to be strong, manifest, and urgent, which calls for the extinction or suspension of any one of those essential rights in the supreme power, or its representative; or which can justify the prince in consenting, that in his person an experiment

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shall be made, to ascertain with how small a portion of the kingly power the executive government of this country may be carried on.

“The prince has only to add, that if security for His Majesty’s repossessing his rightful government, whenever it shall please Providence, in bounty to the country, to remove the calamity with which he is afflicted, be any part of the object of this plan, the prince has only to be convinced that any measure is necessary, or even conducive, to that end, to be the first to urge it as the preliminary and paramount consideration of any settlement in which he would consent to share.

“If attention to what is presumed might be His Majesty’s feelings and wishes on the happy day of his recovery, be the object, it is with the truest sincerity the prince expresses his firm conviction, that no event would be more repugnant to the feelings of his royal father, than the knowledge, that the government of his son and representative had exhibited the sovereign power of the realm in a state of degradation, of curtailed authority, and diminished energy—



a state, hurtful in practice to the prosperity and good government of his people, and injurious in its precedent to the security of the monarch, and the rights of his family.

“Upon that part of the plan which regards the King’s real and personal property, the prince feels himself compelled to remark, that it was not necessary for Mr. Pitt, nor proper, to suggest to the prince, the restraint he proposes against the prince’s granting away the King’s real and personal property. The prince does not conceive, that, during the King’s life, he is, by law, entitled to make any such grant; and he is sure, that he has never shewn the smallest inclination to possess any such power. But it remains with Mr. Pitt to consider the eventual interests of the royal family, and to provide a proper and natural security against the mismanagement of them by others.

“The prince has discharged an indispensable duty, in thus giving his free opinion on the plan submitted to his consideration.

“His conviction of the evils which may arise to the King’s interests, to the peace and happiness

of the royal family, and to the safety and welfare of the nation, from the government of the country remaining longer in its present maimed and debilitated state, outweighs, in the prince's mind, every other consideration, and will determine him to undertake the painful trust imposed upon him, by the present melancholy necessity (which of all the King's subjects he deplores the most), in full confidence, that the affection and loyalty to the King, the experienced attachment to the House of Brunswick, and the generosity which has always distinguished this nation, will carry him through the many difficulties, inseparable from this most critical situation, with comfort to himself, with honor to the King, and with advantage to the public.

(Signed)

" G. P.

" *Carlton House,*

" *January 2, 1789.*"

A series of propositions, embodying this wild and dangerous project—the offspring of party interest and personal ambition, calculated only,

as was justly and forcibly remarked, to establish a weak government and a strong opposition—were brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Pitt on the 16th of January, 1789. Long and angry debates ensued, in which the plan of limitation was attacked in its principle and all its parts with the combined powers of argument and eloquence. Burke, Sheridan, Lord North, Fox, in vain exerted all their efforts against the propositions, which passed the Commons by a large majority. In the Lords, the contest was equally obstinate; and on the 23rd of January, a protest was entered on the journals, signed by the Dukes of York and Cumberland, and fifty-five other peers, expressing their highest indignation at the restrictions thus arbitrarily imposed on the executive authority. A committee appointed by the two Houses then presented the resolutions in form to the prince, who, in rather indignant though guarded terms, declared his acceptance of them. The next day, January 31st, Lord Camden moved that the lord chancellor be directed, by authority of the two Houses of Parliament, to issue a commission in the name

of the sovereign, for opening the session—the commission to consist of the princes of the blood and all the great officers of state. This too passed both Houses, but not without some animadversion; and the princes of the blood expressly refused to suffer their names to be inserted in this commission. The session was accordingly opened in form, by the lords commissioners, on the 3rd of February. The bill founded on the propositions passed the House of Commons on the 12th of February, and in the succeeding week, after much fruitless opposition, had advanced to the stage of commitment, when, happily for the nation, the further progress of these extraordinary measures was arrested by official information from the lord chancellor, that the King's physicians had declared His Majesty to be in a state of convalescence. All further proceedings on the bill were suspended, and no parliamentary business was transacted for nearly three weeks. On the 10th of March, it was announced that His Majesty, being perfectly recovered from his indisposition, had ordered a commission to be issued for holding the Parlia-

ment in the usual manner. The news of the King's recovery diffused the most general and heart-felt satisfaction. A national thanksgiving was appointed, and the King himself went in solemn procession to St. Paul's on the 23rd of April, to offer up his grateful devotions on this event, which was celebrated throughout the kingdom by splendid illuminations, and every demonstration of the real and enthusiastic joy that was felt by the immense majority of the nation at the happy recovery of their beloved sovereign.

It is remarkable that the Irish Parliament proceeded on this occasion in a manner totally different from the English. As soon as the incapacity of the sovereign was ascertained, Mr. Conolly moved, on the 11th of February, 1789, "That an address be presented to the Prince of Wales, requesting him immediately to take upon himself the government of the kingdom, as regent during the King's incapacity;" which, after a long and violent debate, was carried against the opinion of the government members, without a division; and on the 16th a similar address was voted in the House of Lords, by a majority of nineteen.

A protest signed by seventeen lords was entered. The lord-lieutenant, the Marquis of Buckingham, refusing to transmit this address to England, the two Houses appointed commissioners to go and present the address in person to his Royal Highness. They arrived in London on the 25th of February, and the day following presented their address to the prince at Carlton House. His answer sufficiently shews how different the feelings with which he received this address were from those that suggested the terms in which he had signified his acceptance of the resolutions of the English Parliament. As the King was declared to be in a state of convalescence, the prince deferred his final answer for a few days. He gave it on the 12th of March, and on both occasions expressed in the warmest terms his sense of their loyalty and affection.

It was probably a most happy circumstance for both kingdoms, that the King's recovery put an end to the alarms that many persons were disposed to feel. The prudence of the prince, in accepting the regency of England, under the humiliating restrictions imposed on him by

Parliament, would indeed have prevented the worst consequences of his refusal; for in that case the government of England would probably have been given to the Queen, while the prince would have been Regent of Ireland, with all the usual powers of royalty.

On the 10th of March, the lord chancellor made a speech to both Houses in His Majesty's name, expressing His Majesty's warmest acknowledgments for the additional proofs they had given of attachment to his person, and their zealous concern for the honor and interest of his crown, and the security and good government of his dominions. His Majesty soon took occasion to shew how acceptable the late conduct of the ministers had been, by dismissing those persons holding posts under government, who had concurred with the opposition; among them were the Duke of Queensbury, the Marquis of Lothian, Lord Carteret, and Lord Malmesbury.

In the foregoing outline of the proceedings of this momentous period, it has been chiefly intended to place in a just light the conduct of the Prince of Wales personally, without discuss-

ing the motives or the conduct of the persons by whom he was surrounded or advised. Certain it is, that the party sank still lower in public estimation than they had stood before, and that the seeds were now sown of the misunderstandings and enmities which soon after broke out among themselves.

It was greatly to be regretted that the King's displeasure extended also to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, for their conduct on this occasion. The first direct intimation that the prince received of His Majesty's displeasure, was through a letter from the King to the Duke of Clarence, as is expressly stated in a letter from the prince to his father, written after the visit of the sovereign to Weymouth, to which place he went with the Queen and princesses in the autumn of this year. In this letter his Royal Highness announces his intention of submitting to his father a statement which he had prepared of his conduct and motives on the occasion in question. This letter, written, as it seems, by Sheridan, has been published for the first time, from a rough copy found among his papers, by Mr. Moore, who adds

that he has also seen a copy of the statement announced by the prince, and that it filled, with an appendix, 100 folio pages. He adds, that it was supposed to have been drawn up by Lord Minto. The prince, in his letter to the King, also laments "a less gracious disposition in the Queen towards his brothers and himself, than they were accustomed to experience." It should seem that His Majesty had not personally testified his displeasure to his sons; for if he had, the prince would certainly not have delayed justifying himself, till he saw the King's letter to the Duke of Clarence. Perhaps some officious meddlers had in the interim misrepresented to His Majesty the conduct of the Prince during his lamented illness.

It might have been mentioned before, that on the 6th of January, a check for £1000 was sent to the Chamberlain of the City of London, enclosed in the following letter from the Prince of Wales's treasurer:—

"SIR,

"His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, apprehending that the poor of the city of London

might sustain some hardship and inconvenience, in this inclement season, from the delay of the King's annual bounty, arising from the present unfortunate state of His Majesty's health, has commanded me to pay £1000 into the Chamber of London, to be applied to the relief of the poor, in the same manner that His Majesty's bounty has usually been.

"I have the honor to be, &c.

"HENRY LYTE."

His Royal Highness also sent £200 to Edinburgh, to be applied to the relief of the poor of that city.

It was in the month of May, this year, that the celebrated duel took place between his Royal Highness the Duke of York and Colonel Lenox, nephew and heir to the Duke of Richmond, in which both parties appear to have conducted themselves with the strictest propriety, in conformity to what the fashionable world calls the laws of honor; but it should seem that the Prince of Wales must have entertained some kind

of displeasure towards Colonel Lenox, which he manifested at the ball at St. James's on the King's birth-day, which was kept with extraordinary splendor, though His Majesty himself was not present, not having recovered from the shock occasioned by the duel. When country dances commenced, though it was the established etiquette that nobody should join in them who had not first danced a minuet, Colonel Lenox stood up, with Lady Catharine Barnard for his partner. The prince, who danced with the Princess Royal, did not observe the colonel, till he came down to his place in the dance; on which he took his sister's hand, just as she was about to be turned by the colonel, and led her to the bottom of the dance. The Duke of York and the Princess Augusta, who came next, turned the colonel without hesitation. The Duke of Clarence, who came next with the Princess Elizabeth, followed the example of the Prince of Wales. Still, however, the dance proceeded; but when the colonel and his partner had danced down to the prince, his Royal Highness led his sister to the seat next the Queen, who observing to him that he seemed

tired, he said he was indeed tired of dancing in such company. Her Majesty, therefore, proposed to break up the ball, to which the prince assented, saying he never would countenance insults offered to his family. The Queen and princesses accordingly withdrew, which put an end to the ball. The prince afterwards explained to Lady Barnard the circumstances which had obliged him, to his great regret, to act in a manner that could not but have been very unpleasant and embarrassing to her ladyship.

Though His Majesty was so far happily recovered, as to enable him to resume the reins of government, and to pursue his usual mode of life, it was thought advisable that he should try the effects of sea air and bathing to strengthen his constitution, after so severe a trial as it had sustained. With this view Weymouth was selected, where their Majesties would have the advantage of finding every suitable accommodation in the lodge belonging to the Duke of Gloucester, where they arrived on the 30th of June, having left London on the 27th. They left Weymouth on the 4th of August, on a tour through part of

the West of England, and returned on the 28th. The letter from the Prince of Wales to His Majesty, which is mentioned above, seems to have been written during the interval that their Majesties were absent from Weymouth.

While the King and Queen, with the princesses, were visiting the West of England, the Prince of Wales and his brother, the Duke of York, made a tour to Yorkshire. It was at the time of the races; and their Royal Highnesses arrived on the ground on the 28th of August. The next day the Prince of Wales was waited upon by the corporation, who went in procession in their robes from the Guildhall to the Deanery, and presented the following address, with the freedom of the city in an elegant gold box:—

“May it please your Royal Highness, the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of York, animated with the most lively gratitude for the high honor conferred on this ancient city by your presence, beg leave to approach your royal person with the utmost respect, and most cordial affection. This honor, Sir, is greatly increased by your Royal Highness being the only heir-appa-

rent to the imperial crown of this realm, whom they have ever had the felicity personally to address.

“They cannot resist the present favorable opportunity of expressing their just admiration of, and unfeigned acknowledgments for, the wisdom and moderation which so eminently distinguished the affectionate princely conduct of your Royal Highness in the most awful and trying situation, when all men looked up to your Royal Highness for protection, with the fullest assurance of receiving it; and blessed as this kingdom hath been by Divine Providence, in the happy recovery of our most gracious sovereign, (for whom they entertain the warmest sentiments of duty and loyalty,) it is their fervent prayer, that when it shall please the Almighty to call His Majesty to a heavenly throne, your Royal Highness may succeed him in the hearts and affections of a free, brave, and loyal people, and long live to reign over them with the happiness and glory of a patriot King.

“Your Royal Highness is respectfully intreated to permit your royal name to be enrolled amongst

the freemen of this ancient city, and to accept the freedom thereof, which is thus humbly offered to your Royal Highness's gracious reception."

To this address the prince replied,

"My Lord Mayor and Gentlemen, I thank you for your loyal and affectionate address, and for the satisfaction which you express at my visit to the city of York.

"It gives me very sincere pleasure that my conduct has been properly understood by you, and that my opinions as to the powers necessary to have been trusted to me for the general welfare, have not been mistaken by the respectable citizens of York for an extravagant lust of power, or an unbecoming haste to assume the seat, which to be called to as late as possible, is the constant and warmest wish of my heart. Impelled with these sentiments, I must, above all others, rejoice in that happy event which is the subject of your joyful congratulations, and which touches my feelings not more as an affectionate son, than as the person the most interested in every thing which concerns the prosperity and happiness of the realm. I with pleasure accept the freedom

of this ancient city, and your offer of enrolling my name amongst its citizens."

Amongst the persons who attended the prince were the Dukes of Bedford and Queensbury, Earls Fitzwilliam, Carlisle and Derby, Lords Rawdon, Clermont, Fielding, and Downe.

Many thought, however, that it would have been wiser in the corporation to have avoided political retrospection altogether, and thereby have saved the prince the pain of vindicating his conduct, and that of his party.

On the 2nd of September, Earl Fitzwilliam gave a magnificent fête at Wentworth House. Nothing could be more superb and sumptuous than the whole of the arrangements. It was in the true style of English hospitality. His gates, on being honored with the presence of the Prince of Wales, were thrown open to the loyalty of the surrounding country; and not fewer than forty thousand persons were entertained in the park. The scale of the feast may be imagined from the fact, that in the course of the day fifty-five hogsheads of ale were drunk. The diversions, consisting of all the rural sports in that part of the

kingdom, lasted the whole day; and the prince, with the nobility, participated in the merriment. The company in the house were about two hundred, and comprehended all the beauty and fashion of the neighbourhood, without distinction of party. The dinner was in the highest style of luxury, and the fête concluded with a ball.

In coming to town from Wentworth House, the prince met with a serious accident. About two miles on the other side of Newark, a cart, in crossing the road, struck the axle of the coach, and overturned it. It was on the verge of a slope, and the carriage fell a considerable way, turned over twice, and was shivered to pieces. There were in the coach with his Royal Highness, Lord Clermont, Colonel St. Leger, and Colonel Lake. Two of the servants of the prince were on the box. The prince suffered only a slight contusion in the shoulder, and his wrist was sprained. His Royal Highness was undermost in the first fall, and by the next roll of the carriage was brought uppermost, when, with his usual activity and presence of mind, he disengaged himself, and was the first to rescue his companions. Lord Clermont

was so much hurt as to be obliged to remain at Newark. The other gentlemen were fortunate enough to escape with little injury. The accident happened at ten at night, and the moon was up. The mischance was occasioned by the precipitancy of the postilions. The prince got into Colonel Lake's chaise, which was close behind, and proceeded to Newark, where he slept, and went on next morning.

As for a few years after the affair of the regency the prince did not take any prominent part in public affairs, this may be a good opportunity to go back a little, to give some account of more private transactions.

It was in the year 1782 that the prince first went to Brighton on a visit to his uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, who had for some time made this his occasional residence. The house occupied by the duke, was afterwards called Grove House. The arrival of the prince was hailed by the inhabitants with very great joy, for which they would have had still more reason, if they could have foreseen what would have been the result of this visit. The prince was so

charmed with the place, that he seems soon after to have resolved to have a residence built there for himself; and accordingly in 1784 was commenced the building of the celebrated Marine Pavilion, the favorite summer residence of the prince both before and after his accession to the throne. The part towards the sea, which was first erected, is about two hundred feet in extent, to which in 1802 two wings were added. Though the exterior of this princely residence has been the subject of much severe criticism, the interior arrangements are in a style of magnificence suitable to the high rank of the owner. The furniture and decorations, which are in the oriental, especially Chinese style, exceed in splendour every thing of the kind in Europe. Some incongruities have doubtless arisen from the whole of the edifice not having been planned at once; continual additions, alterations, and improvements having been made during a long series of years, partly as convenience or fancy suggested, and partly as opportunity offered of purchasing houses or land in the vicinity, to add to the royal domain. The stables belonging to this marine palace were

erected at an expense of £100,000, and are beyond comparison the most magnificent edifice of the kind in England. In this delightful abode the illustrious owner was used to entertain as his visitors a few favored individuals, who were honored with his personal friendship and regard.

From the time that the Prince of Wales first selected Brighton for his residence, it rose rapidly in extent and population. In 1801, there were 1282 houses, and 7400 inhabitants; in 1809, 2000 houses, and above 12,000 settled inhabitants; in 1829, 3947 houses, occupied by 4718 families, making an aggregate population of 35,000 settled inhabitants; which is increased in the fine season by an addition of from 12,000 to 15,000 visitors, Brighton being one of the finest, and of course most fashionable watering-places in the kingdom. Latterly, His Majesty did not visit Brighton, in consequence, it is said, of having had reason to be offended with something in the conduct of the inhabitants towards him.

Among the remarkable individuals who were honored with the prince's countenance, and were frequent visitors at Carlton House and the Marine

Pavilion, besides the many eminent public characters, there were others, whose political importance was inconsiderable, but whom other circumstances had drawn into the royal circle. A few notes of some of the persons of both these classes may find a place here.

At the head of the Prince of Wales's political friends, at his entrance into public life, was Mr. Fox—a man equally calculated to delight in private, and to command in public life. Between this illustrious statesman and the prince there had been an early intimacy, followed by a sincere attachment, which continued on the part of the prince, without any abatement, till the death of Mr. Fox. That great man, then in the prime of life, was looked up to not only by his own countrymen, but by all Europe, as the man above all others qualified to be at the head of the government. But his bold, independent spirit, the firmness with which he resisted the encroachments of the government, and his sincere and unalterable attachment to the privileges of the people, were insurmountable obstacles to favor at court. In

his parliamentary conduct, there was nothing to disqualify him for occupying a high place in the confidence of the heir-apparent, or to justify the obloquy which was cast on the prince for his attachment. But the enemies of both found in the private character of Mr. Fox matter for bitter invective, and canvassed the amusements and the follies of his lighter hours with an inveteracy of malice, which they never would have bestowed on his private vices, had they not been abashed by his public virtues, and awed by his talents. He entered, it is true, but too largely into the follies and extravagances of the age; he was undeniably guilty of many of the frivolities and indiscretions to which young men of fashion and fortune are subject; and, like other men in similar circumstances, he frequently experienced great vicissitudes of fortune; but his soul was incapable of any thing mean, dishonorable, base, cruel, or treacherous; and with his splendid, we may say unrivalled, talents, there was such mildness in his nature, such simplicity in his manners, such a tenderness of heart, which made

him a partaker in human sufferings of every description, that the words of Terence,

“Homo sum ; nil humanum a me alienum puto,”

are, when applied to him, not a hackneyed quotation, but a just picture of his character and temper of mind.

The person who at this period was supposed to hold the second place in the friendship of the prince, was Mr. Edmund Burke. Brought into public notice by the patronage of the Marquis of Rockingham, and attached to the whig party both by sentiment and gratitude, the splendor of his eloquence, and his various literary attainments, had raised him to a high rank both in the political and the learned world. Edmund Burke was on many accounts one of the most remarkable men of his time. Born with a vast and comprehensive genius, which he cultivated with the most assiduous care, he rose to eminence by his own talents ; and the patronage conferred on him was as honorable to his patron, as his own abilities were to himself. Considering him as a public

man, and as one of the most distinguished leaders of the House of Commons, it may be affirmed of him, without fear of contradiction, that the universality of his knowledge and erudition, the power of his imagination, the rapidity of his eloquence, the perfection of his language, and the various objects to which those endowments were applied, all conspired to make him one of the most conspicuous characters of his time.

The next great character whom the Prince of Wales honored with his particular confidence, and who, by the unanimous voice of his fellow-countrymen, was ranked nearly on a level with Fox and Burke, was Sheridan. Confessedly the first dramatic writer of his age, he was qualified by his talents no less to shine in the senate-house, than to delight in the closet or on the stage. That eminent writer, Dr. Parr, in sketching the character of Sheridan, says, "The golden tide of eloquence which Burke pours forth, the urbanity, the easy and unstudied elegance of North, the subtilty, the vigour, the variety of Fox—all these are conspicuously united in Sheridan."

The late Marquis of Hastings was certainly the

steadiest of His Majesty's friends; but he was an improvident man, and therefore ill calculated to be the adviser of the prince. He was continually in debt, and taking up money upon post-obits, and other securities, at enormous rates. His servants, of whom he kept a large number, lived riotously, and drank the dearest wines at their master's expense. He also had a number of pensioners, most of whom were blood-suckers. One of these was Felix M'Carthy, an Irish adventurer, who once absented himself longer than usual from St. James's-place, on which his lordship sent to know what was the reason: Felix returned an old pair of shoes, worn out at toe and heel, asking "whether those were fit for him to enter his lordship's house in?" It is no wonder that the prince and the marquis should have been constantly embarrassed.

Among the early associates of the prince was George Hanger, afterwards Lord Coleraine—a man of the most eccentric character, not destitute of talent, but of dissipated habits, and fond of low company. In his latter years, he resided in a small cottage in or near the Hampstead-road;

but though he ordinarily spent his evenings at an ale-house, he was not an unfrequent visitor at the palace.

A short time before the regency, the prince laughingly said, "George, in all the years we have been acquainted, you never asked me to dine with you: Now, I should like to do so for once." "Sir," said George, "if you will dine as I do, no person will be more welcome: only fix your time, that I may be prepared." The prince mentioned his day, and was punctual. There was little sign of cookery; but at last the cloth was laid by the female servant, and a baked shoulder of mutton, with potatoes, constituted the whole meal; to which was added simple porter; but whether any wine followed, the writer, who heard the story from Hanger himself, cannot now recollect.

The colonel succeeded to the title of Coleraine in 1814, on the death of his brother: but a greater affront could not be offered him, than to address him in word or writing as "My Lord." He always wore a silk handkerchief round his neck, and a short club-stick under his arm. He died

in 1817, at the age of seventy-three, having been for some years discarded from the prince's parties, on account of his low propensities. He was at one time a sort of purveyor for the royal pleasure; but though he had all the vice and good-humour of Falstaff, he had not the wit of fat Jack. Yet, compared with others, his old patron might say, "We could have better spared a better man."

Another eccentric visitor at Carlton House was Beau Brummell—so called because he set the fashion. Brummell was a fellow of consummate effrontery, and took great liberties with the prince, who bore his impudence with good-humour, till one day, when there was a party at table, Brummell, being at the bottom, called out, "Wales, pull the bell." The prince did as he was bid; and when the servant entered, he said, "Mr. Brummell's carriage." Poor Brummell never came again.

Another of the convivial companions of the prince, was Henry Bate Dudley, commonly called "the Fighting Parson." His name was originally Bate, to which in 1784 he added that of

Dudley. He succeeded his father in the rectory of North Farmbridge, in Essex, but never resided there; living constantly in London, where he wrote for the stage, and conducted the *Morning Post*. In 1780, he established the *Morning Herald*, which became the Gazette of Fashion. Bishop Lowth having called upon him to reside, or discharge clerical duty near London, he, to avoid the former, took the curacy of Hendon. Here he used to attend on Sundays, with his friend Parsons, the comedian; and between the morning and afternoon service, play at cribbage in the vestry!

When the Duke of Bedford became Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, he gave Dudley the chancellorship of the Cathedral of Ferns, and other preferments. In 1816, he obtained a prebend of Ely. The prince regent made him a baronet in 1812. But when, in 1807, application was made to Lord Grenville to promote him to the episcopate, his lordship referred the applicant to the words of St. Paul—"A bishop must be no *striker*."

The prince, soon after the establishment took

place at Brighton, received into his service Louis Weltjie, a German. He was originally a gingerbread baker, and sold cakes about the streets; and the prince being pleased with his manner and cakes, gave him a situation in his household. Here he rose to be chief cook and purveyor, both at Carlton House and the Pavilion. His pride kept even pace with his good fortune; and he even took occasionally great liberties with his royal master. Weltjie at last, however, lost his place and the prince's favor by his folly.

He had an only daughter, of whom he was fond till she offended him by marrying her father's assistant cook. Weltjie was so exasperated at this degradation, that he had the assurance to complain to his Royal Highness, representing the ingratitude of the young man in strong terms, and stating the disgrace brought upon his family by this match. He concluded by soliciting the immediate dismissal of the offender. The good-natured prince only smiled, and told Weltjie to live amicably with the young couple. This Weltjie could not endure, but kept on remonstrating till, his Royal Highness's patience being

tired out, he dismissed the cook from his presence, and shortly after from his service, giving the place to Weltjie's son-in-law.

Weltjie, however, had realized a handsome fortune, and built several houses at Brighton. He also kept a subscription house in St. James's-street many years, the history of which would be curious. He died suddenly in 1800.

In 1787, Lord George Gordon, so fatally celebrated for his fanatic zeal against the Catholics, which caused the riots in 1780, took fresh alarm at the reported marriage of the Prince of Wales to a Catholic lady. Being at this time under prosecution for a libel on the Queen of France, he spoke on his trial with great freedom of the connection. Being asked what particular reason he had to desire the benefit of Mrs. Fitzherbert's testimony, he replied that he had had a conversation with her at Paris, relative to some intrigue of the French and British courts, which he wished that lady to substantiate. Before his trial he called at Mrs. Fitzherbert's house to serve a subpoena on her, but was turned out of doors by her servants. On this occasion his lordship wrote the following

letter to Mr. Pitt, which was delivered to him on his way to the House:—

“SIR,

“Mr. Walter Smythe, brother to Mrs. Fitzherbert, came to my house in Welbeck-street this morning, accompanied by Mr. Acton, and Mr. Smythe said he had brought Mr. Acton to be present whilst he informed me, that he would call me to an account if I went to Mrs. Fitzherbert’s again, or wrote to her, or to him, or took liberties with their names in public, as Mrs. Fitzherbert was very much alarmed when my name was mentioned. I answered, that I looked upon this as a threatening visit; but that I must yet apply to Mrs. Fitzherbert, himself, or Sir Carnaby Haggerstone as often as I found occasion, till a written answer was sent me concerning the proper title of their sister, just as if he had not called upon me. Some other conversation passed respecting the marriage; but this was the substance and result of the whole. I think it my duty to inform you, as prime minister, of this circumstance, that you may be apprised of, and

communicate to the House of Commons, the overbearing disposition of the Papists.

“ I have the honor to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient and humble servant,

“ G. GORDON.

“ 4 o'clock, Friday, May 4.”

At the latter end of May this same year, the prince was attacked with a very serious illness, in consequence of having drunk some cooling liquor while heated with dancing. He was in perfect health on the course at Guildford, dined in town, and went to the Duchess of Gordon's assembly, whence he sent word that he should be at Lady Gideon's to supper. He accordingly went to Lady Gideon's, but on entering the house found himself so suddenly attacked that he was unable to go up stairs, and returned to Carlton House in a sedan chair. His Royal Highness was confined to the house for about a fortnight.

The prince's fondness for horse-racing, and his encouragement of pugilistic sports, having been before alluded to, it may not be improper to give

a few particulars on this subject. With respect to boxing, so much has been said and written both in favor and condemnation of the practice, that it seems wholly unnecessary, and would in truth be irrelevant, to enter into any discussion in this place. If, while it may be allowed on the one hand, that the English practice of deciding a dispute on the spot by a boxing match, is preferable to the stiletto of the Italians, the knives of the Dutch, or the savage practice of gouging of the Americans; it is with some shew of reason asserted on the other hand, that prize-fighting is a disgraceful and barbarous custom. Still the prince should not be too severely condemned, if, in common with many others of the highest rank, he did not see it in the same light; especially when it can be recorded to his honor, that a prize-fight having taken place at Brighton on the 6th of August, 1788, in which one of the combatants was killed on the spot, after a most dreadful conflict, his Royal Highness declared that he would have some settlement made on the nearest relation of the deceased, and that on account of the dreadful example, which he had then wit-

nessed, he would never either see or patronize another stage-fight.

Among the other sports to which the English nation are more peculiarly attached, and what may in some degree be regarded as a national sport, is the amusement of horse-racing. It has received the countenance of some of our sovereigns, particularly of Charles II.; and various Acts of Parliament have been passed for its encouragement, under the idea that it was favorable to the improvement of the breed of horses. At the time when the Prince of Wales became a sportsman, the practice of keeping race-horses was greatly encouraged by some of the highest characters in the nation. Mr. Fox and the late Duke of Bedford were then leading men of the turf, and many other noblemen and gentlemen of the first distinction and respectability afforded it their sanction.

The Prince of Wales, soon after attaining his majority, turned his attention to the collection of a stud of running horses; and as he pursued his object with ardour, he soon found himself master of a stud, not inferior to any in the kingdom. His

horses were seen at all the celebrated race-courses; and he himself often condescended to honor Newmarket and other places of sporting resort with his presence.

What were the sums the prince expended on his racing establishment, or in bona-fide matches, it is impossible to form any estimate. With respect to the sums lost in betting, the probability is, that, like most other gentlemen of the turf, the prince experienced his share of the vicissitudes of fortune, and sometimes was a considerable gainer, and at others a considerable loser. General report, however, made him a very great loser; but there was probably in this case, as well as in many others, a large share of exaggeration.

Could any certain provision be made, which would effectually secure the sport of horse-racing from the suspicion of foul play, of which the amateurs so frequently accuse each other, there could scarcely be a more delightful amusement; but it unfortunately happens, that there is no sport whatever, which is liable to so great a variety of unfair practices, as that of horse-racing. Few characters of eminence have distinguished

themselves on the turf, who have not been suspected, at one time or other, of these unjustifiable artifices; and hence the graver part of the world have been disposed to regard these sporting meetings with strong marks of disapprobation. They have divided the patrons of the turf into only two descriptions of men, fools who have money to lose, and knaves who devise plans to rob them of it. It must nevertheless be confessed that the lovers of the turf themselves have given some countenance to these suspicions. Where large sums of money are at stake, it is no wonder that suspicion should succeed disappointment in the breasts of the losers. But the bad character that has attached to these sports is not so much to be imputed to the real nobility and gentry who patronize them, as to a lower class of persons, who, without any property of their own, and without respectability in the affairs of ordinary life, study horse-racing as a profession, in which their sole object is gain, without any scruple as to the means of attaining it.

It cannot therefore excite surprise, if the noble and the great, who condescend to associate with

the worthless and the mean, should they escape the contamination of such intercourse, often incur suspicions injurious to their honor, and mortifying to their pride. As a remedy for these disadvantages, the gentlemen of the turf resolved to institute a court of their own, to decide on disputes that might arise among them. This tribunal, which has become celebrated by the name of the Jockey Club, was to decide without appeal all such affairs as were in its cognizance. The deference which the sporting world has generally paid to the decisions of this body, may be ascribed in a great measure to the judicious regulation, by which, when any question is referred to it, those members who have any interest in the matter are excluded from the deliberation, and the decision is left to such as are free from all engagements connected with it.

In the autumn of the year 1791, an extraordinary sensation was excited by a decision of this court, in which the Prince of Wales was concerned, and which proved so offensive to him that he resolved to retire from the turf. On the 20th of October, the prince's horse, *Escape*, reckoned

the best horse on the turf, was beaten at Newmarket by two horses of very inferior reputation. The odds, which were before very high in favor of Escape, now changed, and large bets were laid that he would lose the match he had to run the next day; but to the great disappointment of those who had betted against him, he won the second race. In consequence of these circumstances, the prince's jockey, Samuel Chifney, who rode Escape on the two days, was suspected of false play, and the affair was laid before the Jockey Club. The result was unfavorable to Chifney; and Sir Charles Bunbury informed the prince, that, if he suffered Chifney to ride his horses, no gentleman would start against him. The prince replied, that if Sir Charles or any other person could make it appear that Chifney had acted improperly, he would never speak to him again; but that otherwise he would not sacrifice him to any person. Chifney, ten or twelve years after this affair, and shortly before his death, published a curious pamphlet on the subject. Reviewing the matter at this distance of time, it seems that there was but little ground

for the suspicion that Chifney had used foul play. The prince insisted that the Jockey Club should examine him in the strictest manner, and directed him to make affidavits, which he expressed his perfect readiness to do, with respect to the transactions of the two days. From these, it appeared he had no bets at all depending on the first day's race, and only twenty guineas on the second. As for the prince himself, he had no bets the first, and only four hundred guineas the second; and it would be quite monstrous to suppose, that he could be guilty of conspiring with his servant, in order to gain so paltry an advantage. The probability is, that some persons wished to get the prince away, on account of the excellence of his horses; and it was reported that Mr. Vernon had said, that "the prince having the best horses and the best jockies, it was better he should be off the turf." That the prince chose to retire from Newmarket rather than submit to the injurious requisition of dismissing his servant, without sufficient proof of his having deserved such a punishment, was more worthy of praise than censure. He thought that Chifney had been ill

used, and allowed him an annuity of two hundred guineas. Chifney relates in his pamphlet, that in 1802, at the time of the Brighton and Lewes races, as the prince was walking on the Steyne with a gentleman, he approached, and told his Royal Highness that they cried out very much for him at Newmarket; to which the prince replied, "Sam Chifney, there has never been a proper apology made; they used me and you very ill; they are bad people. I'll not set foot on the ground more."

Thus terminated the prince's connection with Newmarket.

In October, 1789, the Duke of Orleans arrived on another visit to England, a house having been previously taken for him, where he was immediately visited by the Prince of Wales, and several noblemen of the first rank. The duke had in the preceding week addressed a letter to the National Assembly, requesting a passport to leave the kingdom, and stating that he was commissioned by His Majesty to transact important business in England. The letter enclosed a certificate from the Count de Montmorin, minister for foreign

affairs, that such a commission was actually preparing for the duke in his office. The passport was granted, though some surprise was expressed at the application.

The duke left Paris the same day for Boulogne; but just as he was going to embark, he was recognised by a number of fish-women, who would not suffer him to go on board the vessel, but obliged him to return to his hotel, where they placed a guard of the town militia over him, with orders to keep him in close custody till the return of a deputation which they sent to Paris, to inform the National Assembly of this event. The duke was relieved from his confinement on the return of the express from Paris. The magistrates of Boulogne apologised for the intemperance of the mob; they themselves having been perfectly satisfied with the passport that he had shewn. Previously to the duke's departure from Paris, he presented the National Assembly with two millions and a half of livres, supposed to be a fourth part of his annual revenue, for which he was publicly thanked by M. Necker in the name

of the King, and by the president of the National Assembly.

In November, this year, a Dr. Withers was sentenced to pay a fine of £50, and to a year's imprisonment in Newgate, and to give security for his good behaviour for five years, himself in £500, and two sureties in £100 each, for a libel on Mrs. Fitzherbert. The defence made by the doctor, who acknowledged the pamphlet, was that he did not know that truth was a libel. A printer, for a libel on the Duke of York, was sentenced by the court of King's Bench to a fine of £50, a year's imprisonment in Newgate, to stand in the pillory for an hour, and to give security for his good behaviour for seven years.

On the 2nd of January, 1790, the Prince of Wales visited that unhappy spendthrift, Lord Barrymore, at Wargrave. His Royal Highness staid three days there, and was entertained with plays and a masked ball. One of the coachmen, however, was killed by driving against a post, and pitching upon his head. Private theatricals were then quite the rage; and many of the nobi-

lity and gentry took the lead in this species of amusement.

On the 14th, Prince Edward (the late Duke of Kent) arrived very unexpectedly from Geneva; and having sent notice of his arrival to Carlton House, the Prince of Wales immediately went to Nerot's Hotel, and brought him with him to Carlton House. The young prince, it seems, had returned home without permission, which gave great offence to their Majesties, whose displeasure could only be appeased by the prince's departure to join his regiment at Gibraltar, for which garrison he set out on the 29th.

On the 15th, his Royal Highness gave a splendid ball to about two hundred of the nobility of both sexes, at Carlton House. This was rather a private entertainment than a gala, being chiefly to do honor to the Princess Gallitzin, who had expressed a strong desire to see English country dances. At this entertainment gaming ran high, and "honest Jack Payne" won a thousand guineas at faro. Most of the foreigners of distinction then in London were present; but the Duke of Orleans had left town for Newmarket.

In this year (1790) there were no less than two prosecutions against the *Times*, for libels on the royal family. The first was on the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, charging them with having so demeaned themselves as to incur the just displeasure of His Majesty. The second was on the Duke of Clarence, asserting that he had returned from his station without authority. For the first, Walters, the printer, was fined £100, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment. For the second, he was only fined £100. At the intercession of the prince, Walters received His Majesty's pardon, and obtained his liberty, in March, 1791, after some months' imprisonment.

On the 8th of February, this year, the prince had his first state levee at Carlton House, which was more numerously attended than that of St. James's, and in some respects more splendid; but the absence of the female nobility was a great drawback.

At the ball at St. James's in honor of His Majesty's birthday, on the 18th of January, a most daring attempt was made to rob the Prince of Wales in the drawing-room. While he was

talking to the King, he felt a severe pull at his sword, and on looking round, perceived that the diamond guard was broken off, and suspended only by a small piece of wire, which, from its elasticity, did not break. The person whom the prince suspected to have made this bold attempt, had quite the appearance of a man of fashion. The diamonds on the part thus impudently attempted to be stolen, were worth £3000. In March the same year, the prince caused a considerable part of his stud to be sold, which produced about £4000.

The prince, during the two or three succeeding years, spent his time chiefly at Carlton House and Brighton, without at all interfering in the deeply interesting political questions which at that period agitated the country. His sentiments were probably in accordance with those of his old friends, most of whom still remained in opposition; but both parties had probably learned by experience, that the support of the heir-apparent availed little against the measures of the government, and could only tend to promote misunderstandings between the prince and his father, and

on that account to render his Royal Highness's friends still more obnoxious to the sovereign. Unhappily, though living thus apart from public affairs, and able to regulate his private concerns as might have been the most conducive to his own comfort as well as credit, and conformably to the pledges he had given that no new debts should be contracted, he entered into all the expensive amusements of former years.

He maintained his connection with Mrs. Fitzherbert, and was said to have contracted an intimate acquaintance with Lady Jersey. Though his debts had been paid, his establishment increased, his income augmented, and his palace completed, he was so far from confining his expenditure within the limits of his income, that he contracted fresh debts to an enormous amount. His creditors again became clamorous; the usual conduct of his intimate friends did not improve, and the public journals but too often related adventures and occurrences equally ignoble and humiliating. His Majesty, whose virtuous and simple habits naturally rendered him averse to profligacy and empty splendor, could not but be deeply affected

by what he saw and what he heard, and at length thought of inducing the prince to enter into the marriage state. This His Majesty had the more reason to wish, as the Duke of York, who had married, in October, 1791, the Princess Royal of Prussia, had no children; and none of the other sons of the King were married. His Majesty, therefore, frequently intimated his wishes on this subject to Mr. Pitt, who was far from being friendly to the measure, and made objections to which the monarch, who did not like contradiction in his domestic affairs, would not listen, so that the minister of course yielded, and left it wholly to His Majesty to manage this important affair.

It cannot be thought extraordinary that the previous habits of the prince rendered him averse to entering into the state of marriage. He who had so long ruled the hearts of some of the most beautiful and accomplished of his countrywomen, was not likely to bring his mind to enjoy, or even to endure, the restrictions of matrimonial life. Besides, his connection with Mrs. Fitzherbert was

a very serious obstacle. Not only was the prince really attached to her, but it might be presumed that she would exert her influence to deter him from marriage, since her dignity, fortune, rank, and happiness, must materially suffer by such an arrangement. She therefore cannot be blamed for her endeavours to divert the prince from any such plan. But it must not be omitted, that after the prince was actually married, she conducted herself in such a manner, that the Princess of Wales was used to speak of her in friendly terms. She did not endeavour longer to exercise her influence over the prince; and although the connection between them was subsequently renewed, it was by his desire, and not at her request.

It is probable that the prince, whose professed admiration of the fair sex in general was a bar to his entering into an indissoluble engagement with an individual, would not have consented to such a step, had he not unhappily contracted such a mass of debts, that he found himself under the necessity of applying to the King and to Mr. Pitt

for assistance. It is certain that he was informed there was no alternative but marriage, to which he at length assented, on an understanding that all his debts should be paid.

When the idea of engaging the prince to marry was made a subject of discussion in the royal family, the chief point was the choice of the person who was to be the future Queen of these kingdoms; and it seemed natural to think, that an endeavour would be made to find, if possible, some princess not only unexceptionable in rank and character, but endowed with personal attractions and accomplishments; qualified to obtain the love and esteem of her royal consort. There is every reason to believe, that the Queen had previously proposed a niece of her own, to whom it seems no possible objection could have been made, she being no other than the most beautiful and accomplished Louisa, Princess of Mecklenburg, afterwards the heroic and lamented Queen of Prussia. If any woman could have fixed the affections of such a prince as his Royal Highness then was, it might have been hoped, that that highly-gifted princess would have achieved so desirable an object.

But the King had resolved that the honor of this alliance should be given to his own niece, the Princess Caroline Amelia Elizabeth, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, whose duchess was the Princess Augusta, His Majesty's sister. The King seems to have formed this plan some time previous to its being formally proposed. He had made it a matter of family conversation and correspondence, and in two letters to his sister, the Duchess of Brunswick, had adverted to the subject. It appears to be indisputable, that the duchess had, in consequence, conceived it to be possible that her daughter might be selected as the consort of the future King of England, and actually expressed her hopes to that effect, to a lady of her court. Yet it must be allowed, that reasonable objections might have been made to an alliance between individuals so nearly related, and who had not possessed any opportunities of personal acquaintance.

The preliminary objection which the Prince of Wales had invariably made, when marriage was recommended to him, now appearing to the King to be removed, His Majesty's solicitude to see the

prince settled increased; he confidently hoped that the ties of domestic life would withdraw him from his constant intercourse with society of which, as a father and sovereign, he could not approve, and would wean him from those pernicious habits of lavish expenditure, which were the foundation of all his mortifying pecuniary embarrassments; he therefore requested the prince to consent to a union with the Princess of Brunswick.

The requisition was made at a time when the resources of the prince were entirely exhausted—when his creditors grew importunate—when it became necessary to discharge some debts of honor—and when, therefore, the prospect of relief, even at any sacrifice, appeared desirable. The portrait of the Princess of Brunswick, which had been shown to the Prince of Wales, represented a woman of by no means a disagreeable appearance; the Duke of York, who had seen her at her father's court, reported favorably of her; and the promise of the King, in writing, that on the marriage of the prince, his debts should be discharged, his income

increased, and the favor of his father augmented and secured, additionally operated on his mind in favor of the connection. He consulted some of his confidential friends, who advised him to give his consent, which he accordingly did.

Matters having been brought to this point, in the commencement of the year 1794, after many previous intimations on the subject, the Duke of Brunswick received from His Majesty King George III. formal proposals for a marriage between the Prince of Wales and the Princess Caroline. On this receipt, the duke immediately consulted his daughter, and her mother did not strive to conceal her happiness and delight. The princess received the intelligence with composure amounting to indifference. That the proposed union was one by which her family would be elevated, and by which her own happiness *might* be improved, she admitted; but her heart was, of course, unmoved by the prospect. Her consent she did not withhold, because, although she had heard of the follies of the prince, she had also heard of his virtues; and his generosity and sensibility had been greatly extolled. Yet here it

must be admitted, that the princess neither did, nor could love her future husband. Her affections had been fixed on a young German prince, to whom she could not give her hand. The precise state of her mind cannot be better explained than in her own words.

In a letter written to a friend, dated 28th November, 1794, she thus expressed herself:—"You are aware, my friend, of my destiny. I am about entering into a matrimonial alliance with my first-cousin, George Prince of Wales. His generosity I regard, and his letters bespeak a mind well cultivated and refined. My uncle is a good man, and I love him very much, but I feel that I shall never be inexpressibly happy. Estranged from my connections, my associations, my friends, all that I hold dear and valuable, I am about entering on a permanent connection. I fear for the consequences. Yet I esteem and respect my intended husband, and I hope for great kindness and attention. But, ah me! I say sometimes, I cannot now love him with ardor. I am indifferent to my marriage, but not averse to it; I think I shall be happy, but I fear my joy will not be

enthusiastic. The man of my choice I am debarred from possessing, and I resign myself to my destiny. I am attentively studying the English language; I am acquainted with it, but I wish to speak it with fluency. I shall strive to render my husband happy, and to interest him in my favor, since the Fates will have it that I am to be Princess of Wales."

This letter was written in German, and was addressed to a German lady, residing for a short time in England.

According to the determination expressed in the letter, an extract from which has just been inserted, the princess devoted a great part of her time, prior to quitting her native country, to the acquiring of a more accurate knowledge of the English language. Her success was rapid and complete. The Prince of Wales, on her arrival, complimented her on the fluency and propriety with which she spoke it, and "declared on his honor, that no Englishwoman could possibly excel her."

The first official intimation of the intended marriage was conveyed to the public in the speech

which His Majesty delivered on the 30th of December, 1794, to both Houses of Parliament, in which he expressed himself in the following manner:—"I have the greatest satisfaction in announcing to you the happy event of the conclusion of a treaty of marriage of my son, the Prince of Wales, with the Princess Caroline, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick: the constant proofs of your affection for my person and family persuade me, that you will participate in the sentiments I feel on an occasion so interesting to my domestic happiness; and that you will enable me to make provision for such an establishment as you may think suitable to the rank and dignity of the heir-apparent to the crown of these kingdoms.

In their address to His Majesty, the Commons replied, "We cannot sufficiently express the satisfaction which all Your Majesty's subjects derive, from the auspicious event of the conclusion of a treaty for the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with the Princess Caroline, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick; and participating warmly in the sentiments which

Your Majesty must feel, on an occasion not less connected with the interests of your people than with the domestic happiness of Your Majesty, we shall cheerfully proceed to enable Your Majesty to make provision for an establishment suitable to the rank and dignity of the heir-apparent of the crown of these kingdoms."

On the 30th December, 1794, her Serene Highness left the court of Brunswick, attended by her mother and a splendid and numerous retinue. The acclamations of the populace followed her for several miles on her route. When they arrived at Peina, the duchess was somewhat indisposed, and they were obliged to delay the journey; but on the 1st of January, 1795, they reached Osna-burg, where they were met by a messenger from Lord St. Helens, announcing that in consequence of the war which then existed in Germany, the squadron which was destined to convey her to England, had returned; and advising her to vary her intention of entering Holland. She had been invited to Hanover by the regency, and the bishop's palace was prepared for her reception. She accepted the invitation, and remained there

for several weeks. She then proceeded, accompanied by her suite, to Cuxhaven, for the purpose of embarking for the place of her destination. During the period which elapsed from the time of her leaving Brunswick, to that of quitting Cuxhaven, she yet farther studied the English language—read many hours every day—made many inquiries as to English manners and customs—and appeared particularly anxious to be perfectly acquainted with the genius and character of the nation over whom she might one day be called to reign.

At length, on the 28th of March, 1795, she embarked in the *Jupiter*, Commodore Payne. Mrs. Harcourt, and Lord Malmesbury, embarked in the same ship; and Major Heslop, Colonel Richardson, and Mr. Ross, in the *Phæton* frigate. Mrs. Aston and Mrs. St. Leger, who had been sent by the Prince of Wales to meet her, also accompanied her. Lady Jersey, who had also been directed to embark from Rochester, returned to London with the excuse of being unwell, and stated her inability to proceed. On the 29th of

March, 1795, the vessels weighed anchor from Cuxhaven, with a fair wind at E. N. E. which continued for three days, when a thick fog came on. They were then only six leagues from Yarmouth, but as it was dangerous to draw nearer the coast, the ships dropped anchor. In this situation they lay through the whole of Thursday. The princess had hitherto been extremely well, had walked the quarter deck every day, and was uncommonly cheerful; but the fog, and the motion of the vessel at anchor, disturbed her health. On Friday, April 4th, the morning was uncommonly fine; and, at four o'clock, the Jupiter made the signal to get under weigh. The fleet went under an easy sail, came off Harwich about noon, and passed through the Swin, to enter the Thames. About two, a very thick fog came on, which obliged the commodore to drop anchor. At four, the fog dispersed, and the signal being made to unmoor, the fleet again got under weigh, and about six o'clock dropped anchor at the Nore; being saluted from the *Sandwich* guard-ship stationed there.

At nine o'clock on Saturday morning, 4th of April, the ships got under weigh, the tide serving, and about noon the Jupiter anchored off Gravesend. The princess slept on board that night.

On Sunday morning, as soon as the tide served, her Serene Highness, accompanied by Mrs. Harcourt, Lord Malmesbury, Commodore Payne, Mrs. Aston, and Mrs. St. Leger, disembarked from the Jupiter, and went on board one of the royal yachts; and, after twelve o'clock, landed at Greenwich Hospital. The princess was received by Sir Hugh Paliser, the governor, and other officers, who conducted her to the governor's house. Lady Jersey did not arrive at the governor's till an hour after the princess had landed: and soon after they both retired into an adjoining room, and the dress of the princess was changed, for one which was brought from town by the Countess of Jersey.

It is impossible to conceive the bustle occasioned at Greenwich by the arrival of the princess. The congregation in the Hospital chapel left it before service was half over. The satisfaction of the

people was expressed by unbounded acclamations.

A little after two o'clock, her Serene Highness left the governor's house, and got into one of the King's coaches, drawn by six horses. In this coach were also Mrs. Harcourt and Lady Jersey. Another of His Majesty's coaches and six preceded it, in which were Mrs. Harvey Aston, Lord Malmesbury, Lord Clermont, and Colonel Greville. In a third coach with four horses, were two female servants, whom the princess brought from Germany, and who were her only German attendants from that country. The princess's carriage was escorted on each side by a party of the Prince of Wales' own regiment of light dragoons, commanded by Lord Edward Somerset. Besides this escort, the road was lined at small distances by troops of the heavy dragoons, who were stationed from Greenwich all the way to the Horse-Guards.

Westminster-bridge, and all the avenues leading to the park and the palace, were crowded with spectators and carriages; but the greatest order was preserved. The people cheered the princess

with loud expressions of love and loyalty, and in return she very graciously bowed and smiled as she passed them. Both the carriage windows were down.

At three o'clock, her Serene Highness alighted at St. James's, and was introduced into the apartments prepared for her reception, which look into Cleveland-row.

After a short time, the princess appeared at the windows, which were thrown up. The people huzzaed her, and she curtsied; this continued some minutes, until the prince arrived from Carlton House.

At a little before five o'clock, the prince and princess sat down to dinner. After dinner, the people continuing to huzza before the palace, his Royal Highness appeared at the window, and thanked them for this mark of their loyalty and attention to the princess; but he hoped they would excuse her appearance then, as it might give her cold. This completely satisfied the crowd, who gave the prince three cheers.

After dinner, the prince and princess were visited by the King, Queen, and princesses, Duke

of Clarence, Duke of Gloucester, Prince William and Princess Sophia, and continued with them for three hours. The King was particularly affable and kind to his intended daughter, but the Queen evinced little pleasure, made but few inquiries, and manifested much less satisfaction than was shewn by the King. The prince was not only polite and affable to the princess, but paid her many compliments; expressed his happiness and confidence in the prospect of a union with her, and his surprise at the fluency with which she conversed in English.

In the evening, when the populace had become rather loud in their expressions of loyalty and attachment before the princess's apartments in Cleveland-row, her Serene Highness, in a voice replete with melody and delicacy of tone, thus addressed them from the palace window:—"Believe me, I feel very happy and delighted to see the good and brave English people—the best nation upon earth." At eleven o'clock the prince retired, and the princess was then left under the care of Mrs. Aston.

Considering the intimate connection which was

generally asserted to exist between the Prince of Wales and Lady Jersey, the choice of her ladyship as one of the attendants on the princess must be allowed to have been, to say the least, a most injudicious step, if not a direct affront to the royal consort; and there is too much reason to believe, that the unhappy differences which so soon disturbed the harmony of the royal couple, and disappointed the fond expectations of the nation, originated in the artful intrigues of an ambitious and jealous woman.

Lady Jersey, who had been present during the greatest part of the interview between the prince and princess, and had remarked, with a feeling of displeasure, the attentions which the prince paid to his intended consort, seems to have resolved to avail herself of the time that would elapse before a second interview, to prejudice the prince against her royal mistress. The princess, it is said, had incautiously avowed to Lady Jersey her previous attachment to a German prince, but probably not in such strong terms as her ladyship represented; however, on the succeeding day, Lady Jersey apprised the prince of this previous attachment

owned by the princess, with whose person and manners she also found much fault.

On the next day, therefore, when the Prince of Wales visited St. James's, he was cool and reserved in his manners, and manifested, if not an aversion to the Princess of Brunswick, at least a considerable alteration in his behaviour. Queen Charlotte has been accused of being the individual who effected, or contributed to effect, this alteration; but it seems much more rational to ascribe it to the intrigues of a rival, than to a princess whose conduct, in every part of her life, places her far above any such suspicion.

At length the day for the celebration of the marriage arrived, and the nuptials were solemnized on the evening of the 8th of April, in the chapel royal, St. James's, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The processions, to and from the chapel, were in the following order:

THE PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE.

Drums and Trumpets.

Kettle Drums.

Sergeant Trumpeter.

Master of the Ceremonies.

The Bride's Gentleman Usher, between the two Senior
Heralds.

His Majesty's Vice-Chamberlain.

His Majesty's Lord Chamberlain.

The Bride,

In her nuptial habit, with a coronet, led by his Royal
Highness the Duke of Clarence, her train
borne by four unmarried daughters
of Dukes and Earls, viz.

Lady Mary Osborne, Lady Charlotte Spencer,

Lady Caroline Villers, Lady Charlotte Legge:

And her Highness was attended by the ladies of her
household.

On entering the chapel, her Highness was conducted to the seat prepared for her, near Her Majesty's chair of state. The master of the ceremonies, with the gentleman usher, retired to the places assigned them.

The lord chamberlain, and vice-chamberlain, with a herald, returned to attend the bridegroom; the senior herald remaining in the chapel, to conduct the several persons to their respective places.

THE BRIDEGROOM'S PROCESSION,

In the same order as that of the bride, with the

addition of the officers of his Royal Highness's household.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,
In his Collar of the order of the Garter, supported by
two unmarried Dukes, viz.

Duke of Bedford, Duke of Roxburgh:

And his Royal Highness being conducted to his seat in the chapel, the lord chamberlain, vice-chamberlain, and two heralds, returned to attend His Majesty.

THEIR MAJESTIES' PROCESSION.

Drums and Trumpets, as before.

Knight Marshal.

Pursuivants.

Heralds.

Treasurer of the Household.

Master of the Horse.

Two married Dukes, viz.

Duke of Leeds, Duke of Beaufort.

Lord Steward of the Household.

Provincial King of Arms.

Sergeants	{	Lord Privy Seal,	}	Sergeants
at Arms.		Lord President of the Council.		at Arms.

Archbishop of York.

Lord High Chancellor.

Archbishop of Canterbury.

Garter Principal King at Arms, with his sceptre, between
two Gentlemen Ushers.

The Earl Marshal, with his staff.

Princes of the Blood Royal, viz.

Prince William.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

Sword of State,

Borne by the Duke of Portland, between the Lord
Chamberlain and Vice-Chamberlain of the Household.

His Majesty,

In the Collar of the Order of the Garter.

Captain of the	{	Colonel of the	{	Captain of the
Yeomen of the		Life Guards		Band of Gentle-
Guards.		in Waiting.		men Pensioners.

The Lord of the Bed-chamber in Waiting.

Master of the Robes.

Groom of the Bed-chamber.

Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen.

Her Majesty,

Between the Queen's Lord Chamberlain, and the Queen's

Master of the Horse.

Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Royal,

Princess Augusta Sophia,

Princess Elizabeth,

Princess Mary,

Princess Sophia,

Princess Amelia.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York,

Princess Sophia of Gloucester,

Supported severally by their Gentlemen Ushers.

The Ladies of Her Majesty's Bed-chamber.

Maids of Honor.

Women of Her Majesty's Bed-chamber.

Upon entering the chapel, the several persons in the procession were conducted to the places appointed for them. Their Majesties went to their chairs on the haut pas, the bride and bridegroom to their seats, and the rest of the royal family to those prepared for them.

At the conclusion of the marriage service, their Majesties retired to their chairs of state under the canopy, while the anthem was performing. The procession afterwards returned in the following manner:—

Drums and Trumpets, as before.

Master of the Ceremonies.

The Princess's Gentleman Usher, between two Herald.

Officers of the Prince's Household.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, leading
the Bride,

And supported by two married Dukes, viz.

Duke of Beaufort, Duke of Leeds.

The Ladies of Her Royal Highness's Household.

The procession, at the return, filed off in the privy chamber. Their Majesties, the bridegroom and bride, with the rest of the royal family, and the great officers, proceeded into the levee chamber, where the registry of the marriage was attested with the usual formalities; after which the procession continued into the lesser drawing-room; and their Majesties, with the bridegroom and bride, and the rest of the royal family, passed into the grand council chamber, where the great officers of state, nobility, foreign ministers, and other persons of distinction, paid their compliments on the occasion.

The evening concluded with very splendid illuminations, and other public demonstrations of joy, throughout London and Westminster.

In a few days the two Houses of Parliament voted unanimous addresses of congratulation to their Majesties, and to the Prince and Princess of

Wales; and their example was followed by the corporation of London, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and most of the other public bodies in the kingdom.

How much the King was interested in this match, was manifest by several minute circumstances connected with the ceremonial of the day. The whole of the royal family having dined together at the Queen's palace, it was necessary afterwards for them to proceed to St. James's, to their respective apartments, to dress; and on leaving Buckingham House, the good old King not only saluted the princess in the hall, but gave the Prince of Wales such a hearty shake of the hand as brought tears into his eyes.

When the service was performing, and the Archbishop of Canterbury came to that part where it is asked, "Who gives the bride in marriage?" His Majesty instantly and eagerly advanced to the princess, and taking her with both his hands, presented her with the greatest marks of satisfaction.

His Majesty was also carefully watchful of the conduct of all; and the prince, after repeating his

part of the service with great clearness and precision, having risen too soon from his kneeling posture, the archbishop paused, when the King, instantly observing the accidental error, rose from his seat, and whispered to the prince, who kneeled again, and the service was concluded.

After the ceremonial, their Majesties held a drawing-room, which was numerously and brilliantly attended: and on its close, the whole of the royal family returned to the Queen's palace to supper, quite in a domestic style, the new-married pair retiring to Carlton House at midnight.

The next morning the King and Queen, previous to setting off for Windsor, paid them a nuptial visit, after which the bride and bridegroom set off for Windsor also, where the honey-moon was commenced under auspices, which unhappily failed to be as permanent as a loyal nation were anxious they should prove.

The celebration of this splendid ceremony was hailed by all ranks and orders of people with enthusiasm. The thunder of the cannon in the park and at the tower, was answered by the acclamations of the populace, and the ringing of bells; by the

display of flags, and the flashing of a million tapers, fantastically shining in all shapes and dimensions, and illuminating the whole of the metropolis. The sympathetic feeling extended itself with the rapidity of lightning to the remotest parts of the empire, and produced the most enthusiastic effusions of loyalty and joy.

Unfortunately, these promising appearances were but of short duration; within a few days after the marriage, the princess was informed that Lady Jersey had been on terms of intimacy with the prince—that she had endeavoured to poison his mind against her, by false and injurious statements—and “that Lady J. was the real wife, and the Princess of Wales only the nominal one.” Every day led her to believe that such information was correct, and she avowed to the prince the dislike she entertained of her ladyship. That avowal he received with considerable displeasure, and professed for the individual the most sincere friendship; but a few words of mutual explanation at that time reconciled the difference.

As one of the conditions on which the prince had been induced to give a reluctant assent to the

marriage proposed was, that he should be completely relieved from the pecuniary embarrassments under which he labored, His Majesty, on the 27th of April, 1795, sent to both Houses of Parliament a message, stating his reliance on their loyalty and affection, for enabling him to form an establishment for the prince and his august bride, suited to their rank and dignity; that the benefit of any settlement then to be made could not be effectually secured to the prince, till he was relieved from his present incumbrances to a large amount; but that His Majesty did not propose to his Parliament any other means of providing for that object, than the application of a part of the income that might be settled on the prince, and the appropriation, for a certain time, of the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall; declaring his readiness to concur in any plan of establishing a proper and regular arrangement in the prince's future expenditure, and of guarding against the possibility of his being again involved.

As this communication was made at a season of great national embarrassment, and when the discontent of the people ran very high, it cannot

be a matter of surprise, that it should have excited a considerable sensation among some of the independent members of the House of Commons. Accordingly, when Mr. Pitt moved for a committee to consider of the King's message, Colonel Stanley, member for Lancashire, moved for reading that sent to the House, on the 24th of May, 1787, relative to the former discharge of the prince's debts. This being done, an animated debate ensued, and the debate was adjourned.

While the public attention was attracted to the debates in Parliament on this interesting question, a variety of publications were issued from the press, teeming with the most virulent abuse of the Prince of Wales; of which, however, no notice was taken by the Attorney-General, or otherwise, to punish the authors of those libels; and the moment was favorable for the propagation of them. It was industriously circulated, and pretty generally believed, that the French Revolution, and the evils which it had brought on royalty in that country, had been produced by the prodigality of the princes of the blood; nor can we wonder at such a notion having obtained

credit among the public, when we find so well-informed and upright a man as the late Mr. Curwen making this assertion in the House of Commons.

On the 14th of May, the further consideration of the prince's debts was resumed. Mr. Pitt stated the necessity of an additional establishment, on account of the marriage of the prince, and a jointure for her Royal Highness. These were the only objects to which he directed the consideration of the committee. The income of the prince was then £60,000 a-year, exclusive of the Duchy of Cornwall, which was about £13,000 per annum. Fifty years ago, his grandfather, then Prince of Wales, possessed a net income of £100,000 per annum, in addition to the Duchy of Cornwall. Eighty years back, his great-grandfather, then Prince of Wales, had £100,000, without that Duchy; and from a review of those establishments, the House would see that his Royal Highness ought to have a considerable addition, even if he was not encumbered with debt. The difference of expense, between the former periods and the present time, amounted, he thought, to at least one-fourth of the whole income. He therefore

proposed that the income of his Royal Highness should be £125,000 per annum, exclusive of the Duchy of Cornwall. This was no more, he thought, than the committee would be disposed to allow to the prince, on the event of a marriage which they approved and rejoiced in. Here, he said, rested the present question: with respect to regulations to be made hereafter, he should state the preparations for the marriage at £27,000, or £28,000, for jewels and plate, and £26,000 for finishing Carlton House. The jointure of the princess to be £50,000 a year. The debts of his Royal Highness, which were for future consideration, he stated at nearly £630,000, up to the last April quarter; besides which, there were some debts in which he was security for his two brothers; but, from their meritorious exertions, those debts were in such a train of liquidation, and course of punctual discharge, that there was no fear of their becoming burdensome to the public. He wished to take the sense of the House on the best mode of freeing his Royal Highness from his incumbrances, and was convinced, that, before the House should take any step for their liquidation, they ought to be clearly

stated for accurate investigation; and for this purpose, he wished to know whether the House would prefer a secret committee, as being the most expeditious mode, or whether they would leave the whole to be settled under a legislative provision. Whatever mode was adopted, it was necessary that regard should be had to a provision against contracting debts in future. It was, he thought, necessary that Parliament should mark the sense they entertained of the manner in which his Royal Highness had incurred his present embarrassments; and in that view, the liquidation of the debt might properly be a tax on the affluence of the prince. He should therefore, in a future stage of this proceeding, propose certain provisions for liquidating the debts out of the revenue of the Duchy of Cornwall, and the other income of his Royal Highness, certain parts of which should be vested in the hands of commissioners, to discharge the debt and interest at four per cent., except such as bore legal interest at five. For this purpose he proposed £25,000 a year should be set apart, which would discharge the debt in about twenty-seven years. In case of the demise of the

Prince of Wales within that time, £25,000 would be charged annually on that succession; but in the event of the demise of the crown and of his Royal Highness within that time, the burden must fall on the consolidated fund. There were, he said, two heads to be attended to in the business under consideration—the punctual payment of the debts already contracted—and that no further debts should be incurred. For this purpose, no arrears should, on any pretence, go beyond the quarter—that debts not then claimed should wholly lapse—that debts thus claimed should be punctually paid, and no other. Mr. Pitt further proposed to invest Carlton House in the crown for ever; that the furniture should be considered as an heirloom; and that all suits, for recovery of debts from his Royal Highness, should lie against his officers. He concluded by moving, that His Majesty be enabled to appropriate £65,000 per annum in addition to the establishment of the Prince of Wales; making his whole income £125,000, besides £13,000 from the Duchy of Cornwall.

To the propositions of Mr. Pitt many objec-

tions were made, but ultimately the annual income, the expenses of repairing Carlton House, and those attending the marriage, were voted.

On May 28th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave notice of his intention to move, that part of the income should be devoted to the liquidation of the debts. This intimation produced, on the 1st of June, a message from the Prince of Wales, which was brought down by Mr. Anstruther, and stated that his Royal Highness was desirous to acquiesce in whatever might be the sentiments of the House, both with respect to his future expenditure, and the appropriation of any part of the income they might grant him, for the discharge of his debts; his wish being entirely to consult the wisdom of Parliament. He was perfectly disposed to acquiesce in any abatement of splendor they might judge necessary; and desired to have nothing but what the country might be cordially disposed to think he ought to have; in fine, that whatever measures were taken by Parliament, would meet with his hearty concurrence. This measure was countenanced by the princess, who declared herself willing to

sacrifice any comfort and enjoyment, for the purpose of enabling his Royal Highness to discharge his debts, and to afford pleasure to “the good people of England.”

The Chancellor of the Exchequer then moved, that a committee should be appointed, to bring in a bill relative to a general regulation of the expenditure of his Royal Highness, and an appropriation of part of his income for the discharge of his debts. This proposition was discussed with much warmth of feeling and party spirit, but it was carried by a large majority.

On the 5th of June, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought up an account of the proceeds of the Duchy of Cornwall during the minority of the Prince of Wales, an abstract of the debts,* and an account of the application of

* Debts on various securities, and bearing interest	£500,571	19	1
Amount of tradesmen's bills unpaid . . .	89,745	0	0
Tradesmen's bills and arrears of establishment from the 10th of October, 1794, to April 5, 1795	52,573	5	3
Total	£639,890	4	4

£25,000 for finishing Carlton House. He then stated, that, previous to the question of what proportion of the prince's income should be set apart for the payment of his debts, it was necessary for the House to ascertain whether they would incur the contingent risk of defraying such portion of those debts as should be unpaid in the event of the demise of his Royal Highness. It was his intention to move in the committee, that £65,000, with the income of the Duchy of Cornwall, should be set apart for the liquidation of the debts, making an annual sum of £78,000. The burden could not be thrown upon the civil list, which, in the event of the demise of the prince, would be charged with the jointure of the princess. He should therefore move, that the committee have a discretionary power to provide, out of the hereditary revenue of the crown (in case of the demise of His present Majesty), during the life of his Royal Highness, for the payment

The several sums paid from the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, during the minority of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, from the 21st of July, 1763, to the 7th of May, 1783, amounted to £233,764 11s. 2d.

of his debts; and, in case of the demise of the prince, to provide out of the consolidated fund, for the payment of such sums as should then remain unpaid. He explained, that for several reigns it had been thought proper to commute the hereditary revenue for the civil list. The mode he proposed was the only one calculated to give security to the creditors, or, in the event of an accession to the throne, to render his Royal Highness responsible for the payment of his remaining debts.

Subsequent to these proceedings, “a bill for preventing future Princes of Wales from incurring debts,” was brought into Parliament by Sir W. Pulteney; another bill was also introduced for granting an establishment to his Royal Highness; and a third for granting a jointure to the Princess of Wales; all which were passed on the 26th of June. The discussions which occurred during these proceedings were peculiarly painful to the mind of the princess, and she frequently said, “she would rather live on bread and water in a cottage, than have the affairs and conduct of the royal family, and of her husband, so investigated

and censured." No individual could entertain more rigid sentiments than the princess, as to the rights and dignity of royalty, and she was therefore proportionately distressed by all these discussions.

In the course of the debates which occurred in the House of Lords, the Duke of Clarence stated, that it was a matter of public notoriety, that when the prince's marriage was agreed upon, "there was a stipulation that he should, in the event of that union, be exonerated from his debts; and speaking of the princess, he described her as a lovely and amiable woman, torn from her family; for though," he continued, "her mother is the King's sister, she may still be said to be torn from her family, by being removed from all her early connections. What must be her feelings from such circumstances, attendant on her reception in a country where she had a right to expect every thing befitting her high rank, and the exalted station to which she was called?"

Prevailed on by the Princess of Wales, by his father and his best friends, as well as impressed with the importance and necessity of the measure, the Prince of Wales now reduced his establish-

ment, but retained the Marchioness of Townshend, the Countesses of Jersey, Carnarvon, and Cholmondeley. The princess requested only the discharge of one of the number, but the favor was refused.

The Royal Marriage Act has often been censured, and with much appearance of reason, as the baneful source of a large portion of the lamentable discord which has, at different times, disturbed the peace of the royal family. To this we are indebted in a great measure for the tardy marriages of the sons of George III. and the singular state of the succession to the throne, when, instead of the numerous circle of sons and daughters that surrounded the venerable sovereign and his excellent consort, we are left without an heir-apparent, while the presumptive heir is a princess, now under twelve years of age, the daughter of the late Duke of Kent. The fifth and seventh sons, their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Cumberland and Cambridge, have indeed sons, and the sixth, the Duke of Sussex, by the operation of the Marriage Act, has been induced to live single; having unhappily contracted, in 1793, a marriage with the highly-accomplished Lady Augusta Murray,

daughter of Lord Dunmore, at that time Governor of the Bahama islands, with whom he became acquainted at Rome, where the ceremony was performed. Lady Murray becoming pregnant, they returned to England, and a second marriage took place in December, 1793, in the church of St. George, Hanover-square, according to the ceremonies of the Church of England.

The King soon afterwards instituted a suit in the Arches Court of Canterbury, to set aside this marriage; and in August, 1794, the court not only pronounced the marriage in England null and void, but declared that the previous marriage, pretended to have been solemnized at Rome, was also, by the law of this country, invalid and illegal. But though this union was thus legally annulled, his Royal Highness has been restrained, by a feeling of honor, from contracting a second.

Another probable consequence of the state of the succession, is the eventual separation of the crown of Hanover from that of England, because, according to the laws of the German Empire, females are excluded from the succession. Should, therefore, the Princess Victoria immediately succeed His present Majesty William IV.,

the crown of Hanover would devolve on his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, if then living, or his descendants. Nay, should there at some future time, be no descendants of the Duke of Cumberland to inherit the crown of Hanover, it would of course come to the Duke of Sussex, or his descendants; and in that case it should seem that the son of the Duke by Lady Augusta Murray, if alive, (or his descendants,) might have a claim to the crown of Hanover; for though the marriage solemnized in England was contrary to the law, and was declared null and void accordingly, yet the previous marriage contracted at Rome being a legal marriage there, and not contrary to the laws of Hanover, it follows that it must in that country be considered as valid; so that should the Duke of Sussex ever become King of Hanover, his son, Augustus d'Este, would be his legal successor to the throne of that kingdom.

The troubles in France had by this time caused England to be filled with thousands of French nobility and clergy, who fled from the horrors that sullied their native country. Among those illustrious exiles were the princes of the royal family of France. In August this year (1795), the prince

went to Portsmouth, to pay a visit to the Count d'Artois (His present Majesty Charles X.), who had arrived there on board the Jason frigate, Captain Stirling. On this visit the prince was accompanied by the Marquis of Buckingham, the Earl of Moira, Admiral Sir Peter Parker, Commissioners Sir Charles Saxton and Colonel Mulcaster. He remained two hours on board. The Count d'Artois was subsequently conveyed on board the Jason, to Leith, where he arrived on the 6th of January, 1796, and took up his residence at the palace of Holyrood House, which the King had ordered to be fitted up for his reception. Here the French princes continued to reside for many years, under the hospitable protection of the British nation, and receiving from His Majesty every attention that could alleviate the unhappy circumstances in which they were placed. The manner in which the French emigrants were received in this kingdom, belongs to the history of His Majesty George III., in which it is one of the brightest pages. It is sufficient to observe here, that the Prince of Wales behaved to them in the manner that

might have been expected from the generosity of his character, as will more fully appear in the sequel.

Besides the French emigrants, this country became the asylum of others whom the progress of the French revolutionary arms compelled to abandon their own country. Among the most distinguished were the Stadtholder, with the hereditary Prince of Orange, his son, and their families, who arrived at Colchester at the latter end of January, 1795. They stopped some days at Colchester, where they were received with every mark of respect by the corporation and the inhabitants of that ancient borough. On their arrival in London, they met with a most affectionate and cordial reception from the King, who assigned the palace at Hampton Court for their residence.

It has already been stated, that immediately after the prince's marriage, Lady Jersey endeavoured, and with too much success, to inspire him with aversion to his consort, to whom, as he had been very unwillingly united, he could not be expected to have any great attachment; but

a woman so circumstanced is certainly entitled to respect and to friendship, which, if she be a worthy object, time may mature into affection, unless the heart of her husband has already been given to another, which was unhappily the case in the present instance.

Notwithstanding the apparent reconciliation of the difference that arose between the prince and princess, when the latter first expressed her feelings on this subject, new bickerings soon followed. The conduct of Lady Jersey became more marked; she did not conceal her aversion for the princess—she endeavoured as much as possible to obtain the private society of the prince—and discord and misery appeared fast approaching. The first quarrel which occurred between these illustrious individuals, took place one day, when, in conversing on the subject, she declared her intention of refusing to dine with Lady Jersey when the prince was not present; and also at any time to converse with her. The prince insisted on a different line of conduct. He required her to treat Lady Jersey “as his friend,” to dine with her at all times, and to converse

with her, as with the rest of her ladies. She refused so to act, and in strong language, and in an animated tone, inveighed against the character of Lady Jersey, and required her dismissal. The prince, on his part, refused to accede to the wishes of the princess, and he left her at Carlton House for some time, angry at her refusal and her conduct.

The princess now applied to the King—she explained to him the causes of her unhappiness, and the conduct of Lady Jersey—and she represented her situation, as a solitary, traduced, and miserable woman, aggravated especially by her delicate situation. The King interfered—effected a reconciliation—and prevailed on the prince to give up Lady Jersey, and direct that she should no more come into waiting. Part of that engagement was fulfilled; but the prince was too much attached to Lady Jersey, wholly to abandon her.

The prince having consented to live in a manner suitable to the limited income left to him after the deduction of the large portion set aside for the payment of his debts, the princess spent most of her time in privacy; she wrote many letters, read

a great deal, and seldom appeared in public, except on visiting the winter theatres twice, and now and then appearing at the Opera.

It was not long before the intimacy of the prince with Mrs. Fitzherbert, which ought to have been for ever abandoned, began to revive. The friendship was indeed not so peculiar, but a large pension was allowed her, a mansion in Park-lane was fitted up and furnished for her, frequent routs were given by her: of all which facts the princess was well aware, and every hour deplored them.

Soon after the marriage, the prayer for the royal family was altered, by the King's desire, to introduce the name of the Princess of Wales.

The situation of the princess became daily more distressing. Her accouchement was speedily expected. The prince spent but little time with her; but Mrs. Fitzherbert was again visited and caressed. In England she was a foreigner. Her domestics were unfaithful. The style and splendor in which she was led to expect that she would live, fell infinitely short of her just expectations—and the character and conduct of her husband

was the subject of daily animadversion. But yet the King displayed the greatest kindness to her. He was solicitous for her health, safety, and happiness; and by letters, by personal visits, and by inquiries, he evinced his anxiety and affection.

The following is an extract from a letter written to a German friend, at this period. It is dated 1st December, 1795:—

“ I expect speedily to be the mother of an infant. I know not how I shall be able to support myself in the hour of solitude, but I trust in the benevolence of Heaven. The Queen seldom visits me, and my sisters-in-law are equally attentive! Yet the English character I admire, and when I appear in public, nothing can be more flattering than the reception I meet with. I was much gratified some time ago with a visit to one of the principal theatres; the spectacle was imposing, and when the audience rose to sing the national anthem, I thought I had never witnessed any thing so grand before. Yet why do I tell you of these things! I am surrounded with miserable and evil principles; and whatever I attempt is misrepresented. The countess still continues here.

I hate her, and I am confident that she does me no less. My husband is very partial to her, and so the rest you will be able to divine. They tell me I shall have a girl. The prince wants a boy, but I do not care which. By the laws of England the parents have but little to do with it in future life. This I shudder at very greatly. I suppose you have seen the English papers. Think, my dear ———, how much the daughter of the Duke of Brunswick must have felt.”

But while the conduct of the prince, in renewing his intimacy with Mrs. Fitzherbert, must be blamed and lamented, as an unhappy deviation from the course which a just regard to his own honor, and to the influence of his example, should have led him to pursue, it is impossible not to acknowledge that that of the princess was not calculated to overcome the dislike which she was well aware her consort had had to the union, to inspire him with that affection which she knew he did not, and could not, yet feel; or to command his respect and esteem, at least, if she failed in gaining his love. As His present Majesty, then Duke of Clarence, designated her, in the House

of Lords, as a "lovely and amiable woman," (an eulogium which, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, was repeated in still more energetic terms by the late Mr. Canning,) it can hardly be doubted that, with patience and forbearance, she might, in a great degree at least, have attained so desirable an object. Might it not have been expected that she would, by such a mode of proceeding, have acquired the friendship of her most amiable and accomplished sisters-in-law, considering the sympathy that the female heart ever has for female wrongs? But, instead of acting in this manner, she took no pains to conceal her resentment and dislike. She behaved with marked difference to the King and to the Queen, caressing the former as her father, and receiving the latter with stiffness and court etiquette. It has been stated, that she vented her complaints on this subject to Lady Jersey, and that her ladyship repeated these complaints to the Queen. If this be true, the inference irresistibly follows, either that the stories of the prince's attachment to her ladyship, and of the resentment of the princess on that account, are fables, or that the princess

must have been the most imprudent of women, to make a confidante of a person whom she regarded as an enemy and a rival; unless indeed we should suppose that such observations were made with a view of vexing the person against whom they were directed, and to whom it was intended they should be conveyed. That a female of high descent, and a haughty spirit, could ill brook neglect or aversion, will be readily acknowledged; but the princess, instead of the lofty pride of conscious innocence and offended virtue, which have led women of as proud spirits as her own to endure in dignified silence the most outrageous wrongs, rather than expose them to the unhallowed gaze of unfeeling curiosity, was much too fond of venting her complaints both in conversation and letters; and during the course of her unfortunate life, her communications in writing, which ought to have been secret and confidential, too frequently found their way to the public through the medium of the press, for which, rather than for the information of those to whom they were immediately addressed, many of them, like speeches in some

popular assemblies, appear to have been composed.

As the prince now frequently absented himself from Carlton House, she wrote to him on the subject, and expressed her chagrin to Lord Cholmondeley, of whose gentlemanly behaviour she always spoke in terms of commendation.

Yet it must be admitted, that the prince was kind and considerate to her Royal Highness, and uniformly directed that whatever she desired, previous to, or at her approaching accouchement, should be obtained.

Meantime the king continued to treat her with the greatest kindness; he frequently visited her, sent her presents, wrote to her, and, in short, acted towards her, in all respects, as an uncle and a father. These proofs of affection, and testimonies of kindness, she always acknowledged; she preserved his letters till within a few days of her decease, and many of them are probably still in existence.

But the period of her accouchement now drew near, and her anxieties increased in proportion as the event approached.

In the latter end of December, 1795, orders were issued to the cabinet ministers and other personages, whose attendance is prescribed on the birth of a royal child, to hold themselves in readiness; and on the 7th of January, 1796, at ten in the morning, the Princess of Wales was safely delivered of a daughter, and the accouchement was conducted with the most solemn formalities. The personages present at the birth, were the Duke of Gloucester, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, the Dukes of Leeds and Devonshire, the Lord Chamberlain, Earl Cholmondeley, Lord Thurlow, and the Ladies of the Princess of Wales's Bed-chamber; the Prince of Wales was present on this interesting and important occasion.

The young princess was christened according to the forms of the Church of England, and received the name of Charlotte Augusta, the former being the name of the Queen, the latter of her maternal grandmother. The christening was solemnized on Thursday evening, the 11th of February, 1796, in the great drawing-room at St. James's, by

his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. The sponsors were their Majesties in person, and her Royal Highness the Duchess of Brunswick, represented by the Princess Royal.

The birth of the Princess Charlotte caused universal satisfaction. The addresses of congratulation were warm and numerous. But a difference unhappily arose between the Prince of Wales and the corporation of the city of London, which had voted an address of congratulation. The prince intimated to Lord Cholmondeley, that his Royal Highness, having been under the necessity of reducing his establishment, could not receive the addresses in a manner suitable to his rank, and desired that copies of them might be sent to him. The citizens took offence at this, and Mr. Deputy Birch moved, "that as the prince stated that he could not receive the congratulations in a manner suitable to his situation, the court cannot, consistently with their own dignity, suffer the compliments to be presented in any way different from the customary form." The motion was agreed to, and a copy ordered to be conveyed to the prince.

In consequence of this, the prince desired to see the Lord Mayor in private, at Carlton House. His lordship obeyed the summons, and at the next court-day, stated the result of the interview. His Royal Highness had told him, that "he was greatly concerned that his sentiments seemed to have been misunderstood; he thought that he ought to be consistent, and as his establishment had been reduced, and the necessary state appendages attached to the character and rank of the Prince of Wales did not exist, he conceived he could not receive an address in state, particularly from the corporation of the city of London, for whom he entertained the highest veneration and respect; and he, therefore, did not wish to receive their address in a manner inconsistent with their character and his own dignity." The court does not appear to have done any thing farther, except to enter the particulars on the records; yet one would think they might have been satisfied, as even the congratulations of the two Houses of Parliament were presented by committees, in consequence of the reduced state of the prince's establishment.

During the period of the restoration of the Princess of Wales, the inquiries of His Majesty were very kind and frequent. The prince manifested considerable pleasure at the birth of his daughter; frequently visited his royal consort, and made inquiries as to the health of herself and infant. But even during this period domestic feuds occurred, and the anticipations of friends, and the desires of the nation, were frustrated and destroyed. Mutual confidence and affection, which are essential to happiness in the marriage state, they did not feel or possess; and it necessarily followed, that every trivial circumstance was magnified into importance by the previous state of their minds.

Among the circumstances that contributed to keep alive these acrimonious feelings, was one which, notwithstanding all that has been said and published concerning it, appears still to be involved in some mystery. Not long after the marriage, but when the princess already felt herself aggrieved at the situation in which she found herself, and disappointed at not meeting in the members of the royal family that cordial regard

to which she thought herself entitled, a report was spread, that her Royal Highness had entrusted to Dr. Randolph, who was going to the continent, a parcel of letters for her Highness's relations in Germany. It was stated, that one of these letters, containing some strictures on the character of the Queen, had been imprudently suffered to lie about after it was written, and that it was seen by Lady Jersey, who resolved to convey it to the Queen. In consequence of this, it was alleged that she had contrived to get the packet into her hands, and that the letters were afterwards in the Queen's possession. The public, who had long been prejudiced against the prince, and knowing that his union with the princess had not been a matter of choice, presumed that he would very probably treat her with neglect, came at once to the conclusion, that the blame of the want of harmony between them must be all on his side, and warmly espoused the cause of the princess. The letters had never reached their destination, and the princess repeatedly stated that she knew they were intercepted by the Countess of Jersey, and delivered by her to

the Queen. Lady Jersey denied the charge; she contended that she had no concern with the packet, and that all blame must attach to Dr. Randolph alone. He in his turn exculpated himself from the charge, and gave a statement to Lady Jersey of all the circumstances; maintaining that, not visiting Brunswick, he had returned the packet by post to the princess. The princess expressed herself indignant at the loss, and required an explanation. Inquiries and investigation ensued, but it was not for some time after the charge was made, nor until the public newspapers accused her of treachery, deceit, and embezzlement, that Lady Jersey endeavoured to clear her character from such imputations; and at length she addressed to Dr. Randolph the following letter:—

“ Pall Mall.

“ The newspapers being full of accusations of my having opened a letter either to or from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and as I cannot in any way account for what can have given rise to such a story, excepting the loss of

those letters with which you were entrusted last summer, I must intreat that you will state the whole transaction, and publish the account in the newspapers you may think fit. Her Royal Highness having told me, at the time when my inquiries at Brighton, and yours in London, proved ineffectual, that she did not care about the letters, they being only letters of form, the whole business made so little impression on me, that I do not even recollect in what month I had the pleasure of seeing you at Brighton. I think you will agree with me, that defending myself from the charge of opening a letter, is pretty much the same thing as if I was to prove that I had not picked a pocket; yet, in this case, I believe it may be of some use to show upon what grounds so extraordinary a calumny is founded. As I cannot wish to leave any mystery upon this affair, you are at liberty to publish this letter, if you think proper to do so."

To this application Dr. Randolph paid no attention; but as the affair attracted public notice, and became a subject of universal reprobation,

Lord Jersey addressed to Dr. Randolph another letter:—

“SIR,

“Lady Jersey wrote to you early in the last week, requesting that a full statement from you, of all that had passed relating to the packet of letters belonging to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, might appear in public print. To that letter she has received no answer from you; nor have I learned that any such publication has appeared. The delay I have been willing to attribute to accident. But it now becomes my duty to call upon you, and I do require it of you, that an explicit narrative may be laid before the public; it is a justice she is entitled to, a justice Lady Jersey's character claims, and which she has, and which you have acknowledged she has, a right to demand at your hands. Your silence upon this occasion I shall consider as countenancing that calumny which the false representations of the business have so shamefully and unjustly drawn upon Lady Jersey.

“I am, &c.”

In consequence of this further application, Dr. Randolph, in a few days, wrote a letter to Lady Jersey, in which, after prefatory matter, he gave her permission to make the following statement public:—

“I need not recall to your ladyship’s recollection the interview I had with the princess at Brighton, when she delivered to me the packet in question; all her attendants in waiting were, I believe, present, and the conversation generally turned upon the various branches of her august family, and the alteration I should find in them after an absence of ten years. This interview, if I am not mistaken, took place on the 13th of August, and after waiting, by her Royal Highness’s desire, till the 14th, when the prince was expected from Windsor, to know if he had any commands to honor me with, I had no sooner received from Mr. Churchill his Royal Highness’s answer, than I departed from London with the intention of proceeding to Yarmouth. On my arrival in town, finding some very unpleasant accounts of the state of Mrs. R.’s health, I took the liberty of signifying the occurrence to her

Royal Highness ; annexing to it, at the same time, a wish to defer my journey for the present, and that her Royal Highness would permit me to return the packet, or allow me to consign it to the care of a friend, who was going into Germany, and would see it safely delivered. To this I received, through your ladyship, a most gracious message from her Royal Highness, requesting me by all means to lay aside my intentions, and to return the packet. In consequence of such orders, I immediately went to Carlton House, to inform myself by what conveyance the letters and parcels were usually sent to Brighton, and was told that no servant was employed, but that every day they were, together with the newspapers, committed to the charge of the Brighton post-coach from the Golden-cross, Charing-cross. On the subsequent morning, therefore, I attended at the Golden-cross, previous to the departure of the coach, and having first seen it regularly booked, delivered my parcel, enclosing the princess's packet, addressed to your ladyship at the Pavilion. Immediately afterwards I set out for Bath, and had scarcely been a fortnight at home, when,

to my great surprise and mortification, I received the following letter from your ladyship, dated Brighton, Sept. 1st.:—‘ In consequence of your letter, I had her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales’s commands to desire, that as you did not go to Brunswick, you should return the packet which she had given you. I wrote accordingly about a fortnight ago. Her Royal Highness not having received the packet, is uneasy about it, and desires you to inform me how you sent the letters to her, and where they were directed. If left at Carlton House, pray call there, and make some inquiries respecting them.

“I am, &c.”

To this letter Dr. Randolph thus replied:—

“I know not when I have been more seriously concerned than at the receipt of your ladyship’s letter, which was forwarded to me this morning. The morning I left town, which was on the 20th of August, I went to the Brighton post-coach, which I was told at Carlton House was the usual conveyance of the princess’s papers and packets, and booked a parcel, addressed to your ladyship.

at the Pavilion, enclosing the letters of her Royal Highness. I have sent to a friend in London by this night's post, to trace the business, and will request your ladyship to let your servants call at the Ship, the inn I believe the coach drives to at Brighton, to make inquiry there, and to examine the bill of parcels for Thursday the 20th of August. If this prove not successful, I shall hold it my duty to return to town, and pursue the discovery myself. I shall not be easy till the packet is delivered safe; and trusting that this will soon be the case,

“ I remain, &c.

“ *Bath, September 4th, 1795.*”

This is what may be called the official statement of this affair; and as the abstraction of these letters, and the mode in which it was effected, gave rise to great and bitter complaints on the part of the princess, and to much public clamor at so shameful a breach of confidence, it may not be irrelevant to make some remarks on the doctor's statement.

It is to be presumed that the whole must be taken as correct, up to the time of the doctor's in-

quiry at Carlton House, as to the mode of sending the packet to Brighton. As he was there told that the parcels were daily forwarded, together with the newspapers, why did not he leave this packet, with directions to the servants to forward it in the usual way? What occasion was there for him to take it to the Golden-cross himself, and send it separately? It was surely as likely to go safe in the daily parcel sent from the palace. As the Golden-cross was within two minutes' walk, why did he not immediately take the parcel there, instead of waiting to go on purpose the next day? However, he saw the parcel booked, and delivered it himself—enclosed, as he says, in a parcel which was directed to Lady Jersey. He then went to Bath, and a fortnight afterwards received the letter dated the 1st of September, announcing the non-receipt of it. As it could not be supposed that the doctor would keep the packet a fortnight after being ordered to return it to the princess, it seems strange, supposing it to have been of any consequence, that so long a time was suffered to elapse before application was made to him.

Dr. Randolph's letter of the 4th of September points out the proper way of tracing the parcel; and we must infer from Lady Jersey's letter, that some of the steps here recommended were taken. The only positive fact seems to be, that the princess certainly did not receive the letters back; for, as the parcel was directed to Lady Jersey, they must have come to her through her ladyship's hands. The suspicion, therefore, which some persons have endeavoured to attach to the princess, that she had herself contrived the whole affair, for the purpose of exciting public sympathy with herself, and indignation against her supposed enemies, is quite untenable. If there was any plot in the case, it must have been between the doctor and Lady Jersey; and the former, if he was wholly innocent, might have proved the delivery and booking of the parcel, and have compelled the coach proprietors to prove the delivery at Brighton, by which he would have been so far exculpated, though this would not have shewn that the parcel really did contain the princess's letters. On the other hand, her ladyship might surely have proved that no such

parcel was delivered to her at Brighton, on that day.

The result, however, was, that the princess always affirmed the apparent quarrel between Dr. Randolph and Lady Jersey, to have been merely a shallow manœuvre to exonerate each other, and above all Lady Jersey. That she, or some one by her authority, conveyed the letters to the Queen, was positively asserted, since observations which they contained, were subsequently mentioned by her, and retailed to the royal family, and to many persons connected with the court. It was the opinion of the Princess of Wales, that Lady Jersey was the chief instrument in this transaction, and that she either received the packet from Dr. Randolph, prior to his quitting Brighton, or directed him to transmit it under cover to the Queen.

The prince on this occasion vindicated the characters of Lady Jersey and Dr. Randolph—stated that, in his opinion, his mother would not have been a party to conduct so improper—and finally blamed the princess for writing what she would object to any person's perusing.

Nobody who duly appreciates the character of Queen Charlotte, will hesitate a moment to agree in the prince's opinion, as far as she was concerned. She most assuredly would never have suffered letters surreptitiously obtained to have been delivered to her; nor, if by any chance she had seen the letters, was she such a lover of scandal, as to have been so communicative respecting them. Lady Jersey might have repeated to her some passages, either from the abstracted letters, (if they were abstracted,) or from the one which, by its having been carelessly left lying about, she was supposed to have taken the opportunity to peruse; a thing certainly not to be justified, but a very different matter from the stealing of the packet, of which she was so directly accused. It seems singular, even on this supposition, that the princess, who was a person of good understanding, and who had long before this become suspicious of Lady Jersey, should have been so incautious as to leave a letter in her way, if it were really of such importance as represented. Some persons have indeed supposed that the parcel really was lost, and that the princess,

finding that to be the case, purposely magnified the importance of its contents. As for passages of the letters having transpired, it is highly probable that, communicative, and often regardless of consequences, as she confessedly was, she had repeated in conversation the substance of her remarks.

This transaction has been dwelt upon in this place, as the author very well remembers the sensation that it excited in favor of the princess, and the unmerited obloquy cast on the Queen, whom no rational mind can believe to have been concerned in so base a transaction.

The differences which had commenced before the birth of the Princess Charlotte, were not allayed, as might have been hoped, by that happy event. The prince had not selected the princess for his consort, and however widely opinions may have differed respecting her character, it seems to be generally admitted that she was unsuited to the prince, and, in all probability, they would never, under any circumstances, have made a happy couple. The princess could not remain long insensible of this fact; they were both too open and

frank to be capable of dissembling their feelings, and neither took much pains to conceal their mutual dislike. Soon after the princess's first appearance in public after the birth of her daughter, a dispute arose, which, though originating in a matter of trivial importance, ended by widening the breach which already existed. It was not to be expected that this state of feeling could long subsist without producing some explanation or alteration; and accordingly they both expressed their dissatisfaction to the Countess of Cholmondeley. Nothing, however, was yet done, and the prince visited Windsor and Brighton, and endeavoured to make himself happy in the pursuit of amusement and pleasure; but the King was displeased at his continued absence from his wife, and expressed his desire to see them reunited. Though this, however, appeared impossible, and the spirit of the princess was incompatible with such a mode of life, she intreated that by some arrangement or understanding, she might enjoy the society and protection of her husband. She accordingly wrote to the prince; but he did not attend to her remonstrances,

and only directed the Countess Cholmondeley to urge the propriety of a separation. At the idea of this, her mind at first revolted. Yet the prince had frequently stated to her his dislike of her person, character, and society; and she did not therefore long feel that aversion to the measure, which she otherwise would have done. On receiving this communication, she wrote to the prince, requiring an explanation of his conduct, and representing the sources of their uneasiness and dissatisfaction: and to it she received a reply which was to her unsatisfactory. Windsor was now the residence of the prince, and Carlton House of the princess. Interviews but rarely occurred, and then they only tended to increase their mutual unhappiness.

In March, 1796, the necessity of a separation was again represented to the princess, and feeling that her situation could not be rendered more painful or degraded, she intimated to Lady Cholmondeley, that if she so separated *now*, at the request of the prince, she would have it expressly understood, that in case of the death of the Princess Charlotte, prior to herself and her father,

she would not consent again to cohabit with the prince, merely for the purpose of preserving the succession of that branch of the royal family to the crown. During the month of April, a further correspondence and conference took place, and at length the princess requested that she might be definitively apprised of the wishes of the Prince of Wales; at the same time adding, that if it was possible, she would still be happy to reside with her husband, but that his conduct must be materially altered, to render her palace the abode of happiness, or even peace. She desired that her feelings and wishes might be communicated to the prince by Lord Cholmondeley. His lordship complied with her request, and returned a reply that his Royal Highness thought an immediate separation had better take place, and that in future they should each form their own arrangements. With a verbal message on a subject of such great importance, the princess was not content, and she required that she should receive from the prince, in writing, his wishes and proposition, that she might be assured the communications she received were those of the prince, and not of artful and

designing individuals, anxious to promote a separation from personal and sordid motives.

With that request the prince soon complied, and on April 30, 1796, he addressed to her the following letter:—

“MADAM,

“As Lord Cholmondeley informs me that you wish I would define, in writing, the terms upon which we are to live, I shall endeavour to explain myself upon that head with as much clearness, and with as much propriety as the nature of the subject will admit. Our inclinations are not in our power, nor should either of us be held answerable to the other because nature has not made us suitable to each other. Tranquil and comfortable society is, however, in our power; let our intercourse, therefore, be restricted to that, and I will distinctly subscribe to the condition which you required, through Lady Cholmondeley, that even in the event of any accident happening to my daughter, which I trust Providence in its mercy will avert, I shall not infringe the terms of the restriction by proposing, at any period, a

connection of a more particular nature. I shall now finally close this disagreeable correspondence, trusting that, as we have completely explained ourselves to each other, the rest of our lives will be passed in uninterrupted tranquillity.

“ I am, Madam, with great truth,
very sincerely yours,

“ GEORGE P.

“ *Windsor Castle, April 30, 1796.*”

This letter, about which so much has been said and written, appears, at this distance of time, to have been such a one as the princess might have expected to receive, after matters had unhappily gone so far. The prince does not cast the slightest reproach on her, but merely tells her what she knew before, that their dispositions were unsuitable to each other: he does not seem even to contemplate a separate residence, as he proposes “ *to restrict their intercourse to tranquil and comfortable society, which,*” he says, “ *is still in their power.*”

The princess, however, was very much surprised and agitated by this letter. They had

indeed often spoken of separation, but when it was presented to her as a reality, and immediate occurrence, she was grieved and disappointed. She hesitated as to the course which it would be prudent for her to adopt, and accordingly first determined on consulting her parents at Brunswick; but as some time would elapse prior to receiving an answer, and all delays being improper, she resolved, at the advice of a particular friend, to consult the King, and to write a speedy answer to the prince. This advice harmonized with her own feelings; yet she expressed herself desirous, if possible, to avoid distressing the King's mind, and agitating his sensibility, by relations which could not fail to produce dissatisfaction and unhappiness. But it was impossible. Lord Cholmondeley told her that a reconciliation appeared impracticable, since the feelings of the prince were not the result of momentary displeasure, but of a long settled indifference, now amounting to dislike. He gave this opinion with his usual politeness and respect, and she felt that it was most likely to be correct. She then thought of returning to her father; but

she could not take such a step without incurring the charge of impropriety of conduct; and, after much hesitation, she resolved on the letter which she sent, and determined on transmitting a copy to His Majesty. The letter was of the following tenor:—

“The avowal of your conversation with Lord Cholmondeley neither surprises nor offends me: it merely confirmed what you have tacitly insinuated for this twelvemonth. But after this, it would be a want of delicacy, or rather an unworthy meanness in me, were I to complain of those conditions which you impose upon yourself. I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful whether this arrangement proceeds from you or from me; and you are aware that the honor of it belongs to you alone.

“The letter which you announce to me as the last, obliges me to communicate to the King, as to my sovereign and my father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find enclosed the copy of my letter to the King. I apprise you of it,

that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity from you. As I have at this moment no protector but His Majesty, I refer myself solely to him upon this subject; and if my conduct meet his approbation, I shall be in some degree at least consoled. I retain every sentiment of gratitude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of Wales, enabled by your means to indulge in the free exercise of a virtue dear to my heart—I mean charity. It will be my duty, likewise, to act upon another motive—that of giving an example of patience and resignation under every trial.

“Do me the justice to believe, that I shall never cease to pray for your happiness, and to be your much-devoted

“CAROLINE.
“May 6, 1796.”

This letter distinctly shews that the difference between the prince and princess had commenced immediately after their marriage; for she says he had tacitly insinuated the same thing for a twelve-month, that is within a month after their union.

The princess also wrote to the King, sending him a copy of the above letter to the prince.

His Majesty wrote to, and visited her, and endeavoured, by every possible method, to remedy the evils which he had been the unintentional instrument of producing. He could not reproach his son for not loving a woman whom he had married from policy; and his attachments to Lady Jersey and Mrs. Fitzherbert had been so frequently discussed and reprobated by him, that fresh animadversions were unnecessary. The prince said and wrote but little on the subject. He respected the dignity of the royal family, and desired that, as much as possible, privacy should be preserved. In this respect all parties agreed, and the terms of separation now alone remained to be discussed. Concerning those arrangements some differences of opinion occurred. The King thought it was possible that the separation need not extend to a change of residence; and this should appear to have been the prince's own original idea; for how were they to enjoy "tranquil and comfortable society," if they were to have wholly distinct establishments? However,

when the matter came to be discussed, the prince and princess both preferred a complete alteration.

The King thought that £20,000 per annum should be allowed to the princess for a separate maintenance; whilst she was advised to reject such income, and transmit periodically to the prince her accounts for payment. To remedy the first difference, it was determined that apartments should be reserved for her at Carlton House, which she might occasionally visit; and to remove any objections as to the plan of her proposed maintenance, she promised to be economical in her arrangements, and retired in her habits.

For some time, however, after these arrangements were concluded, the princess continued to reside at Carlton House, and the prince at Windsor and Brighton; till, at length, she retired to Charlton, a small but beautiful village near Blackheath; where, in a comparatively humble abode, she resided for some years. To that place her beloved child accompanied her; and Miss Garth, Miss Vernon, Mrs. Harcourt,

and Mrs. Sander, with a few other ladies, formed her establishment.

During her continuance at Charlton, the princess necessarily contracted debts, but they only amounted to £32,000, and were paid with cheerfulness and unanimity, out of the droits of the Admiralty. The Queen and princesses did not now, however, visit her. The King pursued a different line of conduct, and all ranks in the nation believed that he would not patronize his daughter-in-law, if her conduct had been marked by any flagrant act of impropriety. Whilst, therefore, the Queen and princesses abstained from her society, the King solemnly ratified his approval of her conduct, by visiting her, although this gave considerable offence to the Prince of Wales.

The correspondents of the princess, at this time, increased in number—her child daily required more notice and attention—her visitors, though few, frequently entered into long conversations and discussions—and these occupations, united to her studies and necessary avocations,

occupied the whole of her time. The Prince of Wales occasionally saw his daughter, though seldom—yet for her he cherished a sincere regard.

The prince, during this period, lived in constant intimacy with Mrs. Fitzherbert; and the Countess of Jersey was seldom heard of in public, or in the newspapers.

Having continued the narrative to this point, it becomes necessary to go back again to notice other transactions which have been passed over, in order not to interrupt the history of these unfortunate misunderstandings.

After the commencement of that series of horrors which disgraced France, and filled Europe with indignation and alarm, the prince, for a long time, took no decisive part in political matters. The opposition party had become disunited among themselves, Mr. Burke having as it were broken it up, by the adoption of that system of the bitterest hostility to the French revolution, which he embodied and advocated with such overpowering energy in his most extraordinary work on that event—the prince himself had, in fact, abandoned the political principles of his friends

by his speech on the 31st of May, 1792, on a motion made by the Marquis of Abercorn, for an amendment to the address of the Commons, on His Majesty's proclamation against seditious meetings and writings. This speech is reported as follows, in the Senator, a collection of parliamentary debates, published at the time. "His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales came forward on this occasion, and, in a manly, eloquent, and, we may truly add, persuasive manner, delivered his sentiments. He said that, on a question of such magnitude, he should be deficient in his duty as a member of Parliament, unmindful of that respect he owed to the constitution, and inattentive to the welfare, the peace, and the happiness of the people, if he did not state to the world what was his opinion on the present question. His Royal Highness said he should detain their lordships but for a short time. The topic opened to their view they had already heard, and would again hear, much more ably discussed, than it could be by any efforts from him. He should not enter into a minute detail of the motion for the address; he should endeavour to confine himself to a mere

expression of his sentiments on the principles of the constitution of this country ; a subject which, at a very early period of his life, he had contemplated with pleasure, and which, to the end of it, he hoped would continue unimpaired. It was a constitution which had afforded protection to all ranks and classes, and he trusted it would continue that advantage. His Royal Highness considered the present proclamation as an interference of government highly necessary to the preservation of order, and the security of our most admirable constitution. ‘ Educated (said his Royal Highness) as I have been in its principles, conceiving it, as I do, to be the most sacred bequest from our ancestors, I hold it a duty incumbent upon myself, and every noble lord, to come forward, and support the proper measures for its defence.’ The matter in issue was, in fact, whether the constitution was, or was not, to be maintained ; whether the wild ideas of theory were to conquer the wholesome maxims of established practice ; and whether those laws under which we had flourished for such a series of years were to be subverted by a *reform* unsanctioned

by the people. As a person nearly and dearly interested in the welfare, and, he should emphatically add, the happiness and comfort of the people, it would be treason to the principles of his mind, if he did not come forward and declare his disapprobation of those seditious publications which had occasioned the motion now before their lordships; and his interest was connected with the interest of the people; they were so inseparable, that unless both parties concurred, happiness could not exist. On this great, on this solid basis, he grounded the vote which he meant to give; and that vote should unequivocally be for a concurrence with the Commons in the address they had resolved upon. His Royal Highness spoke in a manner that called not only for the attention, but the admiration of the House; and these words were patriotically energetic—
'I exist by the love, the friendship, and the benevolence of the people, and their cause I will never forsake so long as I live.' His Royal Highness then concluded with distinctly saying, 'I give my most hearty assent to the motion for concurring in this wise and salutary address.'"

The political difference between the prince and that portion of his friends who remained in opposition to the government, may be supposed to have been rather increased than otherwise by the memorable defection of the Duke of Portland, and others of the whigs, who, appalled at the excesses of the French revolution, joined the ranks of the minister. The prince, however, took no part in politics.

After the Duke of York had been placed by His Majesty at the head of the army, a general promotion taking place, the Prince of Wales wrote a letter to his father, which he transmitted through the Duke his brother, urging his pretensions to promotion in the army; to which His Majesty replied, that before he had appointed the prince to the command of the 10th light dragoons, he had caused fully to be explained to him his sentiments respecting a Prince of Wales entering the army, and the public grounds on which he could never admit of the prince's considering it as a profession, or of his being promoted in the service.

When Lord Thurlow gave up the great seal, he

became the confidential friend and adviser of the Prince of Wales at Brighton, where the ex-chancellor now mostly resided.

It was much noticed that Lord Loughborough, who had been the prince's legal counsellor at the period when the appointment of the regency was debated, had become the keeper of the King's conscience, while his old antagonist was the chosen friend of the prince. Such are the shiftings in the political world.

To the honor of Lord Thurlow it should be known, that he advised the prince to avoid taking any part in politics, and to make himself independent by a rigid economy. "By so doing," said he, "your Royal Highness will lose nominal friends, but you will gain the people."

In 1796, the world was amused by the pretended discovery of a mass of papers bearing the name of Shakspeare. The noise which these relics made, excited the curiosity of the Prince of Wales to see them. Accordingly, Samuel Ireland, the possessor, waited upon his Royal Highness with the precious cargo of manuscripts.

Of this interview the younger Ireland gives the following account, in his confession of the forgery:—

At Mr. Ireland's entrance, his Royal Highness, with his usual affability, rose to receive him; and so completely divested himself of that dignity which he was entitled to assume, as to render Mr. Ireland as unrestrained in his manners, as if he had been in the company of his equals.

On the production of the manuscripts, his Royal Highness began to inspect them with the strictest scrutiny, when, to Mr. Ireland's infinite astonishment, he not only questioned him on every point, with an acuteness which he had never before witnessed from the learned who had inspected the papers, but he also displayed a knowledge of antiquity and an intimate acquaintance with documents of the period of Elizabeth, which Mr. Ireland had conceived to be confined to those only that had made this particular subject the object of their study.

Having examined the manuscripts, his Royal Highness said, "As far as the external appearance will witness for the validity of the documents,

they certainly bear a strong semblance of age; to decide, however, peremptorily from this cursory inspection, would be unjustifiable; as in matters of this nature so much is to be said pro and con, that the decision requires mature reflection. I certainly, Mr. Ireland, must compliment you much upon the discovery; as the name of Shakspeare, and every thing appertaining to him, is not confined alone to the literary world, but to the English nation, to which the publication will, I trust, afford that gratification which is expected to be derived from it."

While Mr. Ireland was arranging the manuscripts, the prince continued to deliver his remarks on the papers he had inspected: and wheresoever the smallest ground of objection was apparent to his mind, he requested an answer to his query, which was always put with ease, although a depth of penetration was apparent in the question, to which Ireland found it difficult to make an apt reply.

Thus far Ireland's account goes; but the writer of this knows that in a discourse with Sheridan, the prince treated the imposture as it

deserved, and warned the manager of what would be the fate of Vortigerns, if he should be so weak as to bring it on the stage. One thing, the prince said, was clear; the manuscripts were too many to have been so long concealed above ground.

In the year 1797, the royal family was deprived of one of its brightest ornaments, by the marriage of the Princess Royal, with his Serene Highness the hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg. There were many circumstances connected with this marriage, which rendered it a subject of peculiar interest. Not only the royal family, but the nation in general, were much attached to the Princess Royal, and to the regret at losing her were added very sincere misgivings with respect to the probability of happiness in this union; and the prince, whose first wife was the eldest daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, had been nominally a widower nine years, but there was a mystery hanging over the fate of his wife, which required to be cleared up. She had been imprisoned by the Empress Catherine, in a castle 200 miles from St. Petersburg, where she died; but many

persons believed that she was still living, and others accused the prince with having been a party to the cruel treatment that she had met with. These suspicions were doubtless ill-founded, but His Majesty was of course anxious to be perfectly satisfied on so important a point; and having ascertained that the Princess of Wirtemberg was certainly dead, he gave his consent to a marriage, to which both he and the Queen were said to have been very averse; though the princess herself, as was reported, had lent a favorable ear to the prince's proposal.

The prince, afterwards Duke, and King of Wirtemberg, was a man of a strong mind and superior abilities, but extremely despotic in his principles, and too often in his conduct. His laws respecting the rights of the chase, and the preservation of game, were rigorous in the extreme, and the punishments for the violation of them beyond measure severe, and even cruel. His own fondness for the chase was great, and he took great pleasure with unsportsman-like massacres of some thousands of animals of all descriptions, driven into a narrow space from a great extent of

country, where they might be killed without resistance, and without danger. A curious narrative of one of them was published in a German journal, of which the following is the substance. In the year 1813 or 1814, the Emperor Alexander being on a visit at Stuttgardt, the King resolved to give him the exhibition of a hunting party of a very novel description. Some thousand peasants were employed for three days, in beating the country for many miles in extent, driving the game of all sorts into a circle gradually narrower, till the animals retreating from their pursuers had no means of escape left, but into the wide gateway of a lawn standing on the borders of a lake. By the continual pressure in the rear, they were compelled to ascend the staircase of the tower, and finally to leap from the summit into the lake, giving the illustrious person who had the honor to be invited to this entertainment, an opportunity to shoot four-footed animals, such as deer, hares, &c. flying in the air.

Most of the German princes having joined Napoleon in his war against Austria, were re-

warded by him with increase of territory and higher titles: thus the Electors of Bavaria and Saxony obtained the royal dignity, which it seems Napoleon did not at first intend to give to the Duke of Wirtemberg. Napoleon, however, passing through Stuttgardt, the Duke took the opportunity of asking him to give him the title of King, to which the Emperor at length assented. His objection seems to have been founded on the small extent of the new kingdom.

The parting between the princess and the royal family was affecting in the extreme. Her own attendants, from whom she took leave in the kindest manner, were all in tears, and even many of the spectators who were assembled to see her depart, wept aloud when she stepped into the carriage, which was to bear her from her father's palace and from her native country. It is however but just to add, that though she had no children, her husband appears to have behaved to her with all possible kindness and affection, and at his death, made a munificent provision for her. She was adored by her subjects, and the

present King of Wirtemberg, her husband's son by his first wife, always behaved to her with as much deference, respect and affection, as he could have shewn had she been his own mother.

It was in this same year that the gallant Kosciusko arrived in England, accompanied by many Polish officers going with him to America. He was in a deplorable state of weakness and suffering when he reached London, where he was received with great respect, and a handsome sword was voted him as a present by the Whig Club.

This year, too, will be memorable on account of the formidable mutiny in the fleet; on which occasion, the prince, overlooking all party differences, conducted himself in a manner which Mr. Moore proved, that whatever might be his opinions, he could, in the moment of peril, sink the partisan in the patriot. Yet though he supported the ministry in their measures for suppressing a rebellion which might have been the ruin of the country, he did not therefore desert Mr. Fox, and his other friends, who, wearied out

as they were with continual and fruitless opposition to a ministry whose measures they thought brought ruin and disgrace on the country, withdrew in a body from both Houses of Parliament. This step, which was probably taken with a view to excite a sensation in the country, and impress on the minds of the people a sense of the danger of the nation, failed in producing such an effect. The seceding members were blamed for a dereliction of their duty, and that part of the nation which was opposed to the ministers were much more satisfied with Mr. Tierney and Sir Francis Burdett, who remained at their posts.

On the 8th of July died one of the prince's earliest friends, and one of the most extraordinary and highly-gifted men of his time, the celebrated Edmund Burke; a man whose violence of temper in the assertion of his political opinions raised up against him a host of enemies, and drew upon him unbounded obloquy, but who will always be venerated as one of the most splendid geniuses of an age fertile in great men, and whose exemplary conduct in all the relations of private life, as a

husband, a father, and friend, whose unaffected piety, and unsullied purity of morals, as honorably distinguished him, as his transcendant talents.

The unhappy consequences of the alienation between the Prince and Princess of Wales, were manifested, among other things, by the insults that were continually offered to the princess when travelling on the Greenwich road, on her way from Carlton House to Charlton. On the 1st of August, her life was in imminent danger from the misconduct of two Greenwich coachmen, who, racing with each other, drove against her carriage, and nearly killed one of her servants; and the coachmen being brought to Bow-street, one of them behaved with great insolence; and the princess's servant stated that her Royal Highness seldom travelled that road without being insulted, the coachmen often blocking up the road, and refusing to let her pass. As for the prince, he seems to have lived quite retired; and His Majesty having resolved to go to St. Paul's, to return thanks to Divine Providence for the great naval victories gained by Lords Howe, St.

Vincent, and Duncan, we do not find that the Prince of Wales was present on the occasion, at least his name does not appear in the accounts published of this striking ceremony.

While the most distinguished members of the opposition continued to refrain from attending their duties in Parliament, they seem to have thought it necessary to find other occasions to express, with a vehemence increased by the irritation of disappointment, the opinions and doctrines which they had failed in impressing on the majority of the two Houses. On the 24th of January, 1798, there was a meeting of no less than two thousand persons, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, to celebrate the birth-day of Mr. Fox; the Duke of Norfolk was in the chair; and after a prefatory speech of a very inflammatory nature, proposed the health of Mr. Fox, which was succeeded by several toasts, which, to say the least, were highly imprudent at a time when party spirit and political acrimony had ran to an alarming height. In returning thanks to the meeting for drinking his health, the noble duke said, "Allow me to call on you to drink our

sovereign's health, 'The majesty of the people.'" In consequence of his conduct at this meeting, His Majesty very properly dismissed the Duke of Norfolk from the Lord Lieutenancy of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and the command of his regiment of militia. This salutary example was lost on Mr. Fox, who, at a meeting of the Whig Club in May following, gave as a toast, "The Sovereignty of the people of Great Britain;" for which His Majesty erased his name from the list of privy councillors.

The year 1799 was distinguished by the patriotic spirit of the people in forming themselves into corps of volunteers for the defence of the country, in case of invasion by the enemy. On the King's birthday, the 4th of June, there was a grand review in Hyde Park of sixty-five corps of volunteers of London and the vicinity; the whole amount of these patriotic corps, armed and clothed at their own expense, and serving without pay, was fifteen thousand men, of whom between eight and nine thousand were on the ground. It was a noble and heart elevating scene, and the King might well say, that it was the proudest day of

his life, when, as he rode along the ranks of these citizen-soldiers, attended by the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York, Kent, Clarence, Cumberland, and Gloucester, he was received with the most enthusiastic acclamation by one hundred and fifty thousand of the inhabitants of the metropolis and vicinity, proud of their sovereign, proud of their sons, brethren, and husbands, who had thus voluntarily come forward to defend, if it should be necessary, the person of their King, and the independence of their country. On the 21st of the same month, His Majesty was pleased to honor the several volunteer corps in and about the metropolis with his royal inspection. In Finsbury-square, His Majesty was received by the Prince of Wales at the head of the Artillery Company, of which he was Captain-general; the number of volunteers reviewed on this day was about twelve thousand. Both on this occasion and on the preceding, the Queen and the five princesses were present. On the 1st of August, the King went to Maidstone, to review the volunteer association of the county of Kent. A pavilion was erected in Lord Romney's grounds, for the royal family to dine, and tables

and benches were placed in sight of the pavilion for the volunteers. There were ninety-one tables, the whole length of which was seven miles and a half, capable of accommodating six thousand persons. On this occasion, too, the Prince of Wales and the royal dukes accompanied His Majesty; there was a very brilliant review and sham-fight, which gave great satisfaction to the royal family, and to the crowd of spectators: among the company were a very great number of the nobility and gentry. When the volunteers, having finished their dinner, rose to drink His Majesty's health in a bumper, with three times three, followed by loud and reiterated acclamations from the company, and the music of all the bands, the effect was extremely grand. On all these occasions the public witnessed, with much satisfaction, the cordiality that appeared to subsist between the prince and the King his father.

The prince's birth-day was celebrated this year at Windsor with considerable eclat. In the forenoon there was a grand review in the great park of several regiments of light horse, that were on the point of proceeding to the coast, to embark

on the celebrated expedition to Holland, under the command of the Duke of York, the brilliant commencement of which served only to make the unfortunate issue the more lamented. A magnificent cold collation was given to the officers by His Majesty, for which some handsome tents, taken from Tippoo Saib, were set up in the garden of Cumberland Lodge, so as to form three sides of a quadrangle. In front of their Majesties' tent a stage was erected, on which tumblers and rope-dancers from Sadler's Wells exhibited their feats for the amusement of the Princess Charlotte, then in the fourth year of her age. How perfectly happy did the good King appear, surrounded by his family! and with what delight did he seem to contemplate the childish joy of his infant granddaughter, who clapped her little hands at the antics of the tumblers! Every appearance of ceremony was banished; the pressure of the crowd to get near to the low paling of the garden, often forced many of them, who stood next to it, to jump over, where they were suffered very quietly to remain, and as soon as the royal family rose, instead of being rudely ordered to withdraw,

they were politely asked into the tents to partake of the refreshments.

To gratify the people, who had collected in considerable numbers near the house, her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth came to the open window, with the Princess Charlotte in her arms, and held her up to the crowd, who welcomed her with acclamations.

The year 1800 was rendered memorable by the grand measure of the union of Ireland and Great Britain; on which, as the prince does not appear to have taken any part therein, it is unnecessary to dwell.

On the 15th of May, this year, two attempts were made on the King's life; the first in the morning, while reviewing the Grenadier Guards in Hyde Park, when, during the firing, a ball cartridge was discharged, the ball of which severely wounded Mr. Ongley, a young gentleman in the Navy Office, who was standing within a few yards of the King; the second was in the evening, when the royal family being at Drury-lane Theatre, a pistol was fired at him just as he was entering his box, by a person in the pit. The

King shewed extraordinary and admirable coolness on this occasion, and, far from betraying any symptom of fear or alarm, resolved to remain till the play was over. The assassin was seized on the spot, and conveyed to the music-room, where he was examined by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Mr. Sheridan, and others. The Prince of Wales, in particular, evinced, on this occasion, the most anxious solicitude, and joy at the safety of the King.

In 1800, the Prince of Wales directed the Rev. John Hayter, M. A. fellow of King's College, Cambridge, to go to Italy, and exert himself on the spot, under the permission of the King of Naples, to unroll and transcribe the Papyri discovered in the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii. On his arrival at Naples, he wrote a letter to his royal patron, in which he says, "The number of manuscripts saved is said to be about 500, but if I am rightly informed by those whose official situation must give them a competent knowledge of the subject, your Royal Highness, by facilitating the development of these volumes, will probably be the means of further excavation, and of res-

cuing from their interment an infinite quantity of others. About thirty years ago, His Sicilian Majesty ordered the development, the transcription, and the printing of those volumes which had then been saved. This operation was accordingly begun, and went on till the invasion of Naples by the French. But the mode was slow, being performed by a single person, with only one frame, under the direction of the Marquis del Vasto, chamberlain to the King, and president of the Royal Academy. The frame consists of several taper and oblong pieces of wood, with parallel threads of silk running on each side the whole length of each piece. When the frame is laid on any volume, each piece of wood must be fixed precisely over each line of the page, while the respective threads, being worked beneath each line, and assisted by the corresponding piece of wood above, raise the line upwards, and disclose the characters to view.

“The operation seems ingenious, and well adapted to the purpose. It was, I believe, invented by a Capuchin at Naples. The fruits of it are said to be two publications only—one on music, by the

celebrated Philodemus, who was a cotemporary of Cicero, and the other on cookery. The first is in His Majesty's library, at the Queen's palace. Through the obliging politeness of Mr. Barnard, the King's librarian, I have had the advantage of perusing it. Indeed, I hope your Royal Highness will not disapprove my acknowledging in this place, the very warm and respectful interest which both this gentleman, and the right honorable the president of the Royal Society, have expressed for the furtherance of your Royal Highness's great and good design. Meanwhile, by this specimen of Philodemus, I am convinced, that, if the frames should be multiplied to the proposed extent, several pages of thirty different manuscripts might be disclosed and transcribed within the space of one week. But the very period at which the manuscripts were buried, serves to point out to your Royal Highness, that you may expect the recovery of either the whole, or, at least, parts of the best writers of antiquity, hitherto deemed irrecoverable. All of these, in truth, had been written before that period, if we except Tacitus, whose inestimable works

were unfortunately not composed till twenty years afterwards, during the reign of Trajan. Nor can it be imagined for a moment, that among five or six hundred manuscripts already excavated, and especially from the numberless ones which farther excavations may supply, lost at such a period in two of the most capital cities, in the richest, most frequented and most learned province of Italy, each of them an established seat of the arts and sciences, each of them the resort of the most distinguished Romans, not any part of those illustrious authors should be discovered. But the manuscript of Philodemus itself, makes the reverse of such an idea appear much more probable. To the moderns, who have

‘Untwisted all the chains that tie

The hidden soul of harmony,’

his treatise on music cannot indeed be supposed to communicate much information; yet the subject is scientific, and scientifically treated. The author himself, too, was one of the most eminent men in his time for wit, learning, and philosophy. But in the rest of the arts and sciences, in history, in poetry, the discovery of any lost writer, either

in whole or in part, would be deemed a most valuable acquisition and treasure, and form a new era in literature. It is extremely fortunate that the characters of these manuscripts, whether they should be Greek or Latin, must be very obvious and legible. Before the year of our Lord 79, and some time after it, the Majusculæ, or Unciales Literæ, capital letters, were solely used. A page, therefore, in one of these manuscripts, would present to your Royal Highness an exact image of some mutilated inscription in these languages on an ancient column, statue, or sepulchre. There cannot remain a doubt, even omitting the assurances from men in official situations to that effect, that your Royal Highness's superintendent will receive every possible assistance from the Marquis del Vasto; and in that case, it seems improbable that the object of this mission can be altogether fruitless. With such a termination of it, however, your Royal Highness, by having proposed to concur with His Sicilian Majesty in the quicker and more effectual development, transcription, and publication of three manuscripts, will reap the satisfaction of having made a most princely

attempt in behalf of knowledge and literature, on an occasion where their interests might be affected most materially, and in a manner of which no annals have afforded, or can hereafter afford, an example. Your very interposition will be your glory: your want of success will only make the learned world feel with gratitude what you would have done."

The prince was encouraged to go on, and he incurred an immense expense to little benefit. Six rolls of manuscripts came to Carlton House; but none of value, except a fragment of Epicurus.

At the beginning of 1801, Mr. Pitt, after retaining his high office for nearly twenty years, resigned, and was succeeded, as prime minister, by Mr. Addington. This unexpected change was stated to have originated in the difference of opinion between the King and Mr. Pitt respecting Catholic emancipation, a measure to which the minister considered himself pledged by the act of union, and which he regarded as its indispensable complement. Whatever may have been his motives, the administration was completely changed, and negotiations for peace,

which had been broken off the year before, were now renewed, and led to the conclusion of preliminaries of peace between France and England, and in the sequel to the definitive treaty, which was signed at Amiens on the 25th of March, 1802; but which proved to be no more than a hollow truce, which was ended in about a twelvemonth, by a renewal of hostilities with increased acrimony on both sides.

During the short interval of peace, men of all parties wished that the prince might be enabled, by the liberality of Parliament, to resume the state and dignity suitable to his birth. Mr. Manners Sutton, the prince's solicitor-general, made a motion for a committee to inquire into his Royal Highness's claim to the arrears of the Duchy of Cornwall during his minority; but Mr. Addington, objecting to this, made the prince's legal advisers recommend him to present a petition of rights to the Lord Chancellor, by which a legal decision on his claim might be obtained. The business was cut short in this stage by Mr. Addington, who, on the 15th of February, delivered a message from His Majesty, recommend-

ing to the House of Commons to take the affairs of the Prince into consideration. The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed that the Prince should have £125,000 a year, besides the revenue of the Duchy of Cornwall, without disturbing the plan agreed to in 1795, for the payment of his debts, of which he stated £563,895 had been paid off up to the 5th of January, this year. The portion remaining to be paid was £235,754, including principal, interest, and charges of management.

In consequence of this, the prince intimated his acquiescence in the determination of the House; and added, that, with respect to the Duchy of Cornwall, he had resolved, out of duty to his father, to forego his claim, rather than prosecute it in a hostile manner; he, however, added, that there were still some demands on his honor and justice, for the discharge of which he must set apart a considerable sinking fund, and must therefore postpone, till they were paid, the resumption of his state and dignity.

Having, on different occasions, said so much of the prince's debts and embarrassments, it is but justice to him to quote, from the "Recollections

of Mr. John Nichols," the following remarks, which place the matter in a clear, and rather a new, light:—

“ When his Royal Highness came of age, an establishment was assigned to him, far beyond what could be supported by the very moderate income which was allowed him. This occasioned him to contract debts; and when it became necessary that those debts should be discharged, very little care was shewn to protect the prince's character from disgrace. The courtiers were every where active in contrasting the regularity of the King's life with the indiscretions of the prince. On the establishment of the prince's household, every man must have seen that an expense was created which his income would not be able to discharge. Parental affection, and the political solicitude which the monarch in possession ought to have for the character of his immediate successor, should both have attracted the King's attention. There was another circumstance also, which ought not to have been overlooked. The Duchy of Cornwall was the prince's property, from the hour of his birth. When he

came of age, the prince was put in possession of the revenues of this Duchy. But the prince obtained no part of that revenue which had been received from the Duchy during his minority. A different treatment was shewn to the Duke of York. When he came of age, the whole revenue received from the bishoprick of Osnaburg, during his minority, was paid over to him. There was another circumstance respecting the Duchy of Cornwall, by which a still greater injury was done to the Prince of Wales. The King procured an act of Parliament to be passed, authorising him to grant leases of the prince's lands in Cornwall, for ninety-nine years, determinable upon lives. For these leases, the King received fines during the prince's minority to the amount I believe of about £250,000. What a difference would it have made to the prince, if, when he came of age, estates in possession had been delivered up to him, instead of reversions expectant on leases for ninety-nine years, with small rents reserved! Even this sum of £250,000, received by the King for the leases which he granted, though obviously an inadequate com-

pensation, was not paid over to the prince. It may be said, perhaps, that the King received this power from Parliament. I admit it, but the Parliament had no right to grant this power. It was a gross breach of faith by the guardians of the prince's estates. I am justified in saying, that the Parliament is as much the guardian of the prince's estates, as it is of the demesnes of the crown. I am justified in saying this, by the conduct of the House of Commons, in the reign of Henry IV. Richard II. had granted away many of the estates of the Duchy of Cornwall. The House of Commons took notice of this, and sent up a bill to the House of Lords, requesting their concurrence in a bill for the restoration of these lands to Prince Henry, afterwards King, under the name of Henry V. The House of Lords refused to concur; but though they refused to concur with the Commons in the bill, the House of Lords addressed the King, to direct the law officers of the crown to commence suits against the possessors of these lands, on behalf of the prince. In the suit subsequently instituted in the reign of James I., by his son Prince Henry,

for lands, part of the Duchy of Cornwall, which had been improvidently granted away by Queen Elizabeth, though the proceedings were only in a court of law, the same doctrine seems to have been adopted—viz. that the estates of the Prince of Wales were as much under the protection of Parliament, as the demesnes of the crown. I am aware that it will be said, the Prince of Wales afterwards received compensation for his rights. He brought a suit against the King, by petition, and in 1803 received £220,000 for compromising his claims, a sum shamefully inadequate. But what would have been the different situation of the prince, if he had received even this sum in 1783, when he came of age, instead of receiving it in 1803?"

Some of the prince's friends finding that he would, even now, be unable to resume his state and dignity, wished the House to do something more; and some members proposed that £6000 a year, out of the income allotted to the prince, should be applied to the establishment of the Princess of Wales. The Chancellor of the Exchequer opposed the motion; there was, he al-

lowed, but one sentiment throughout the House respecting the virtues of the Princess of Wales; but he thought the proposal would seem to imply a doubt, which nobody could entertain, of the generosity of the prince.

In this same year, 1803, the military preparations of Napoleon indicating a design of invading England, the spirit of the people was roused in an extraordinary degree, which was encouraged by the proceedings in Parliament. Mr. Sheridan, in the House of Commons, and Earl Moira, in the Lords, described in glowing colours the power and ambition of Buonaparte; and as they were known to be the particular friends of the Prince of Wales, it was reasonably believed that their sentiments did not materially differ from those of his Royal Highness himself. As soon as hostilities were actually renewed, volunteer associations were formed with incredible rapidity throughout the country; some of the ministers enrolled themselves as privates: the Duke of Clarence commanded a corps near Bushy, his speech to which, on its first assembling, deserves to be recorded for its manly and patriotic simplicity:—"My

friends and neighbours," said the duke, "wherever our duty calls us, I will go with you, fight in your ranks, and never return without you."

On the 4th of December the Prince of Wales presented a pair of colours to this corps, on which occasion he delivered a very animated address.

Participating in the patriotic ardor of the nation, the Prince of Wales was extremely desirous of having a more distinguished station allotted to him than that of colonel of dragoons, and a most interesting correspondence on the subject took place between himself, Mr. Addington, the Duke of York, and His Majesty. The prince first addressed a letter to Mr. Addington, on the 18th of July, 1803. In this he says, "I am aware I do not possess the experience of actual warfare; at the same time I cannot regard myself as totally unqualified, or deficient in military science, since I have long made the service my particular study."

Mr. Addington (Lord Sidmouth) did not even answer this letter, and on the 26th of July the prince again wrote to him, saying, "A week has now elapsed since the Prince of Wales transmitted

to Mr. Addington a letter on a subject of the highest importance. Though he cannot anticipate a refusal to so reasonable a demand, he must still express some surprise that a communication of such a nature should have remained so long unanswered. When the Prince of Wales desired to be placed in a situation which might enable him to shew to the people of England an example of zeal, fidelity, and devotion to his sovereign, he naturally thought he was only fulfilling his appropriate duty, as the first subject of the realm, in which, as it has pleased Providence to cause him to be born, so he is determined to maintain himself by all those honorable exertions which the exigencies of these critical times peculiarly demand."

The next day, Mr. Addington returned a brief reply, appreciating the prince's motives, and referring to answers which the King had given to similar applications made by the prince in former years. The prince insisted that his letter of the 26th of July should be laid before the King, and on the 1st of August Mr. Addington wrote a brief contemptuous letter to the prince, saying,

“that the King’s opinion being fixed, His Majesty desired that no farther mention should be made to him upon the subject.”

On the 6th of August the prince addressed a long and very beautiful letter to the King, of which the following is an extract:—

“I ask to be allowed to display the best energies of my character, to shed the last drop of my blood in support of Your Majesty’s person, crown, and dignity; for this is not a war for empire, glory, or dominion, but for existence. In this contest, the lowest and humblest of Your Majesty’s subjects have been called on: it would, therefore, little become me, who am the first, and who stand at the very footstool of the throne, to remain a tame, an idle, and a lifeless spectator of the mischiefs which threaten us, unconscious of the dangers which surround us, and indifferent to the consequences which may follow. Hanover is lost; England is menaced with invasion; Ireland is in rebellion; Europe is at the foot of France. At such a moment, the Prince of Wales, yielding to none of your servants in zeal and devotion—to none of your subjects in duty—to none of your

children in tenderness and affection—presumes to approach you, and again to repeat those offers which he has already made through Your Majesty's ministers. A feeling of honest ambition, a sense of what I owe to myself and my family, and above all, the fear of sinking in the estimation of that gallant army, which may be the support of Your Majesty's crown, and my best hope hereafter, command me to persevere, and to assure Your Majesty, with all humility and respect, that, conscious of the justice of my claim, no human power can ever induce me to relinquish it. Allow me to say, Sir, that I am bound to adopt this line of conduct by every motive dear to me as a man, and sacred to me as a prince. Ought I not to come forward in a moment of unexampled difficulty and danger? Ought I not to share in the glory of victory, when I have every thing to lose by defeat? The highest places in Your Majesty's service are filled by the younger branches of the royal family; to me alone no place is assigned; I am not thought worthy to be even the junior major-general of your army. If I could submit in silence to such indignities, I should indeed de-

serve such treatment, and prove, to the satisfaction of your enemies and my own, that I am entirely incapable of those exertions which my birth and the circumstances of the times peculiarly call for. Standing so near the throne, when I am debased, the cause of royalty is wounded. I cannot sink in public opinion without the participation of Your Majesty in my degradation; therefore, every motive of private feeling and public duty induces me to implore Your Majesty to review your decision, and to place me in that situation which my birth, the duties of my station, the example of my predecessors, and the expectations of the people of England, entitle me to claim."

The next day the prince received the following answer:—

"MY DEAR SON,

"Though I applaud your zeal and spirit, in which I trust no one can suppose any of my family wanting, yet, considering the repeated declarations I have made of my determination on your former applications to the same purpose, I

had flattered myself to have heard no farther on the subject. Should the implacable enemy succeed so far as to land, you will have an opportunity of showing your zeal at the head of your regiment. It will be the duty of every man to stand forward on such an occasion, and I shall certainly think it mine to set an example, in defence of every thing that is dear to me and to my people.

“ I ever remain,

“ My dear Son,

“ Your most affectionate father,

“ GEORGE R.”

On the 23rd of August, the prince sent a most beautiful, admirable, and, it may be said, unanswerable reply to this letter, which seems to have closed the correspondence with the King. On the 2nd of October he wrote to the Duke of York, complaining that he had been wholly overlooked in the very extensive military promotions which had appeared in the preceding day's Gazette. The duke replied at great length, merely urging the King's unalterable resolution that the

heir-apparent should not make the army his profession, or receive any higher rank than that of colonel. A very long correspondence took place between the royal brothers. The prince's letters were admirably written, and the arguments alleged in them were, in truth, unanswerable; but the King, who had undoubtedly the right to refuse his assent to the prince's wishes, had formed an opinion of his own on the subject, which nothing could remove. As for the correspondence, it is highly probable that the public would have known nothing of the transaction, but have been left to imagine that his Royal Highness was remiss in the moment when the country was menaced with invasion, had not a conversation taken place in the House of Commons, on the 2nd of August, when Colonel (since General) Craufurd moved for a committee on measures relative to the defence of the country. Strangers were indeed excluded during the debate: an account, evidently from authority, was published the following morning, by which it appears that some members having directly alluded to the Prince of Wales, Mr. Tyrwhitt, one of his Royal Highness's household,

declared that the prince had, from the beginning of the war, wished to be employed in any service His Majesty might call him to; that such wish had been made known to the ministers, and that if his services had been rejected, he (Mr. T.) had *proof* that the fault did not lie at his door.

Several members, and in particular Mr. Fox, (who had returned to his post,) having pressed the minister to state why the services of the heir-apparent had been declined, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, doing justice to the feelings of the prince, declared that nothing less than the commands of the King, and the united authority of the House, should in future compel him to say a word more on the subject. This conversation, however, led to the publication of the whole correspondence, in which the prince has so manifestly the advantage, that the people of England were satisfied, and did full justice to his spirited and patriotic conduct at that important crisis.

It was at this period that the prince requested of Lord Moira, that upon the first notice of the enemy's landing, the Earl would hasten to place himself by the side of his Royal Highness, that

they might face the foe together; unless, in the interval, his lordship should be ordered upon immediate service. In consequence of this application, the Earl declined taking the command of the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry.

On the 17th of November, this year, the prince lost an old and favorite servant, John Willett Payne, admiral of the red, treasurer of Greenwich Hospital, warden of the Stannaries, and auditor-general to his Royal Highness. The prince used to call him "honest Jack Payne," and had his picture painted for the principal room in Carlton House.

Jack was a bon vivant, but a worthy character. He took an active concern in his master's interests during the King's illness in 1788.*

His remains were interred in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, the prince being represented at the funeral by General Hulse, who went in his Royal Highness's coach and six; two of the royal footmen were behind in state liveries; two of the prince's grooms preceded, and three followed

* See Moore's Life of Sheridan.

the hearse. Dr. Stanier Clarke, the librarian and chaplain, read the service.

In November, the Prince of Wales gave a grand entertainment to that remarkable character, the celebrated Elfi Bey, chief of the Mamelukes, and a number of other distinguished visitors. The conversation turning on the skill of the Turks and Mamelukes in equestrian exercises, the prince said, "I have now in my stud an Egyptian horse, so wild and ungovernable, that he will dismount the best horseman in the Bey's retinue." The Bey replied in Italian, "I shall gratify your Royal Highness's curiosity to-morrow." An appointment was made for the next day, at the prince's riding house, whither the Bey came with his interpreter, and Mahomet Aga, his principal officer, where the prince and his royal brothers, with several noblemen, were waiting to see the management of the horse, which nobody had yet been able to ride. A Mameluke saddle having been fixed by the grooms, the animal was led into the riding house, but appeared so ungovernable, that the gentlemen present concluded that nobody would attempt to mount him. The horse

is described as a model of beauty; he was spotted like a leopard, and his eyes so fiery, that it seemed dangerous to approach him. Being led round the boundary, Mahomet made a spring, seized the reins, and vaulted on the back of the animal, which, enraged at a burden it had never before felt, and goaded by the tightness of the Egyptian saddle, made the most desperate efforts to throw his rider, who, to the utter astonishment of the prince, and every other beholder, kept his seat for twenty minutes, at the end of which time, the ferocity of the animal was subdued. The prince was highly gratified; and highly complimented the officer on his skill and courage. Elfi Bey and his retinue, after partaking of some refreshment at Carlton House, departed not a little proud of this victory.

In 1804, a strong altercation took place between the King and the Prince of Wales, respecting the education of the Princess Charlotte. The prince insisted that the mother was an improper companion for the daughter, and resolved that she should be confided to his sole management. The King, on the contrary, maintained that the Prince

of Wales was an improper person to have the charge of his own child, and insisted upon the right of the mother. The prince remonstrated, and pronounced the line the King had taken to be an *insult* upon him. His Majesty was firm, and became himself the guardian of the child.

The difference that had unhappily arisen, was, however, amicably adjusted, and on the 12th of November, an interview between the King and the prince took place at Kew Palace, the Queen and the princesses being present. The meeting after a long interval, was extremely affecting, marked by every emotion of kindness and conciliation on the one part, and of filial respect on the other. After an hour's conference, His Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Cumberland, returned to Windsor, and the Prince of Wales, with the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, to Carlton House, where the Duke of Rutland, Earl Moira, Mr. Sheridan, and others, were ready to receive him; and an express was sent to Woburn, to fetch Mr. Fox, to have an audience with the prince on this happy occasion.

The King, however, had still some misgivings,

as appears from the following letter to the Princess of Wales, to whom he continued to shew every mark of affection. In 1800, he had presented her with the rangership of Greenwich Park, and induced her to live at Montague House, Blackheath.

“ Windsor Castle, Nov. 13, 1804.

“ MY DEAREST DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND NIECE,

“ Yesterday, I and the rest of the family had an interview with the Prince of Wales, at Kew. Care was taken on all sides to avoid all subjects of altercation or explanation, consequently, the conversation was neither instructive nor entertaining; but it leaves the Prince of Wales in a situation to shew whether his desire to return to his family is only verbal or real, which time alone can prove. I am not idle in my endeavours to make inquiries that may enable me to communicate some plan for the advantage of the dear child. You and I, with so much reason, must interest ourselves; and its effecting my having the happiness of living more with you, is no small incentive to my forming some ideas

on the subject, but you may depend on their not being decided upon without your thorough and cordial concurrence ; for your authority as a mother, it is my object to support.

“ Believe me, at all times,

“ My dearest daughter-in-law and niece,

“ Your most affectionate

“ Father-in-law and uncle,

“ GEORGE R.”

The promise contained in the latter part of this letter, the King punctually fulfilled, and all the subsequent arrangements which were made relative to the Princess Charlotte, whilst His Majesty remained capable of exercising his authority, were never entered into, without a previous reference to the Princess of Wales.

Two days afterwards, Lord Moira had the honor of an audience of the King ; the gracious reception which he met with from their Majesties, and every branch of the royal family, proved the sensible impression which his noble and delicate conduct in the whole progress of the reconciliation had made on their minds.

The year 1806 was fatally distinguished by the death of the two greatest statesmen of our times, W. Pitt and C. J. Fox. William Pitt, who had returned to the administration after the renewal of the war with France, “was not long in discovering that place does not always imply power, and that in separating himself from the other able men of the day, he had but created an opposition as much too strong for the government, as the government was too weak for the country. The powerful coalition opposed to him, had already a prospect of carrying by storm the post which he occupied, when, by his death, it was surrendered without parley into their hands.”*

To trace the character of this extraordinary man with justice and impartiality, is a task requiring in him who should attempt it, qualifications of the highest order, but which fortunately it is not here necessary to perform. Even now, a quarter of a century after his decease, we see opinion still divided respecting his merits as a

* Moore's Life of Sheridan.

public man, some considering him as the saviour of the country in a time of unexampled peril, and others stigmatising him as the most pernicious minister that ever directed its affairs for so long a period, and as having by his rashness brought the vessel of the state into the storm which he was said to have weathered. But it is far easier to criticise measures that have been tried, than to conceive and to execute in a moment of imminent danger, such as may prove the most salutary. Nor can those who censure him even now be certain, that a different line of general policy would have produced more beneficial results. Who shall affirm that acquiescence or forbearance would have conciliated the good-will of the blood-stained demon of revolution, or have obtained for this kingdom any greater favor than that of being the last devoured? True it is, the struggle cost us countless treasures, and oceans of the noblest blood of Britain. But the best energies of the nation were called into action, and a spirit of patriotism kindled, the beneficial influence of which will endure, long after the sacrifices which it required shall be forgotten. If Pitt erred, the

nation, which approved his measures, erred with him; and posterity will decide that he who, entering on public life as a youth, could proudly resolve not to stand in a secondary place, but to adopt for his motto "*Aut Cæsar aut nihil*;" who, in spite of the host of talent opposed to him, could yet maintain himself in his exalted position for so long a period, and that though success did not crown his efforts; must have had an extraordinary hold on the minds of his countrymen. He had, it must be owned, the advantage of inheriting a name bright in the annals of his country's glory; his youth was undoubtedly favorable to him at the commencement of his career, and his disregard, if not contempt, of wealth and honors, proved that his ambition, if lofty, was not selfish; while the austere and unsullied purity of his private life was contrasted with the very different habits of his highly-gifted political opponents. Yet even they did justice to his motives, while they deprecated his system. Friends and enemies have united in lamenting that he did not live to see the salvation of his country accomplished, but that his last moments

were embittered by the thought of leaving it engaged in that tremendous struggle, the issue of which was veiled in impenetrable gloom: less happy in this than his disciple and his friend, who lived to see that *march to Paris*, which had been ridiculed as more Quixotic than all the reveries of the Knight of La Mancha, twice accomplished, in one short twelvemonth, under his own administration.

The administration which immediately succeeded that of Mr. Pitt, under the auspices of Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox, was compounded of ingredients much too anomalous to acquire the confidence of the nation, or to effect any great measure, in the brief space of its existence, which was terminated by the death of its illustrious head, Charles James Fox; on whom indeed the whole burden of the government had fallen, when his age and bodily infirmities rendered him unequal to such a task. The last political act of his long and noble career was a motion for the abolition of the slave trade: an appropriate conclusion of those labours, which had been devoted to the assertion and defence of the dearest rights

of humanity and justice. If the consciousness of rectitude, added to the bitterness of disappointment, may have sometimes carried him in the warmth of debate farther than his friends, or even himself on reflection, would have considered as justifiable, no reproach will now be cast upon his memory for such errors of reasoning, which had no influence beyond the moment of their utterance; while the recorded wisdom of his clear and comprehensive mind remains, the imperishable treasure of the statesman, the patriot, and the philanthropist. And if in the review of his life we are bound to acknowledge that his example, with that of his other distinguished friends, sometimes misled the youthful steps of our late lamented sovereign into the devious paths of delusive pleasure, yet we must own, that the gratitude of the nation and of Europe is due to him and them, for having sown in the mind of the prince, the seeds of those generous principles of internal government and of foreign policy, liberal, not weak, firm, but not arbitrary, which presided over the brilliant course of his glorious reign, which rendered him beloved at home, and

respected abroad, the father of his people, and the arbiter of the destinies of the civilised world.

It is pleasing to reflect, that the differences which had subsisted between the Prince of Wales and his early friend were all done away with, and perfect cordiality restored before the death of Mr. Fox. When that great statesman, whose complaint was dropsy, underwent the operation of tapping, the prince came up from Brighton to see him. Fox rallied, and seemed delighted for a time, which gave pleasure to the prince, who expressed a hope that he would recover. "No," was the reply, "if the water is let out by one vent, it will only be to make room for more." They never saw each other again. One of the last sayings of Mr. Fox was a question to Lord Holland, "whether he believed in a future state."

In the same year, 1806, rumours injurious to the character of the Princess of Wales having been circulated, were communicated to the Prince by the Dukes of Sussex and Kent; on which his Royal Highness, took the advice of Lord Thurlow, and laid the case before the King. On the 29th of May, 1806, His Majesty appointed Lords

Erskine, Grenville, Spencer, and Ellenborough, to inquire into and examine all the charges; the principal of which was, that a child, whom the princess had adopted, and was bringing up, was not the offspring of a poor woman, named Austin, as alleged, but the princess's own; on which ground she was accused, by Sir John Douglas and his lady, of criminal conduct with Sir Sydney Smith. It would be wholly superfluous to enter into the disgusting details of these proceedings, which were known by the very inappropriate name of the "Delicate Investigation."

On the 14th of July, the commissioners made their report to the King, fully acquitting the princess of criminality, but fixing on her the charge of levity of conduct with Captain Manby and Sir Thomas Lawrence. This led to further proceedings, exculpatory of these two gentlemen; and on the 28th of January, 1807, the King wrote to her, stating that her character had been cleared, that he had ordered her accuser, Lady Douglas, to be indicted for perjury, and that he was again willing to receive and countenance the princess, hoping that her conduct in future might be more

cautious and discreet. On the 10th of February, however, His Majesty again wrote to her, stating, that the Prince of Wales had thought proper to lay the whole proceedings before his law officers, and until they had made their report, His Majesty could not receive her. After a long correspondence between the King and the princess, a minute of council was made on the 22nd of April, 1807, fully exculpating her from all the charges; and she was publicly received at court, and had state apartments allotted to her at Kensington Palace. Her reception at court was on the birthday; and it is remarkable, that as she passed to and from the drawing-room, through the different chambers, she was received with a clapping of hands—a most extraordinary display of feeling for such a place. The princess now lived a life of great seclusion. She was still unnoticed by any of the royal family except the King; a separate establishment was formed by his Royal Highness for the Princess Charlotte, at Shrewsbury House, Blackheath; and the prosecution of Sir John and Lady Douglas, for perjury, was dropped.

The conclusion of the year 1806, and the commencement of 1807, were marked by a series of events on the continent of Europe, following each other in rapid succession, and fearfully augmenting the formidable power of Napoleon. The battle of Jena, the entire conquest of Prussia, the defeat of the Russian armies, the meeting of the Emperors Alexander and Napoleon at Tilsit, and the extraordinary consequences that it produced; the celebrated decrees of Berlin and Milan, designed for the annihilation of British commerce; the seizure of His Majesty's German dominions, and of those of the Duke of Brunswick, mortally wounded in the battle of Jena; belong to the history of the reign of George III. In consequence of these events, His Majesty's sister, the Duchess Dowager of Brunswick, took refuge in England, where she was received with the greatest respect and affection by all the royal family. She arrived at Gravesend on the 7th of July, where, previous to her landing, she had an affecting interview with the Princess of Wales, her daughter, whom she accompanied to Blackheath, and was there visited by the Duchess of York, the

Princess Charlotte, and the King. On the 13th, the Duchess and the Princess of Wales paid a visit to the Queen and princesses, at Buckingham House, where they were received with much state and ceremony.

The public events of this period, not immediately belonging to the subject of this work, are, of course, passed over. It may, however, be worth while to mention an anecdote not generally known—that when the news of Admiral Duckworth's having passed the Dardanelles, and appeared before Constantinople, reached Hamburgh, a very long letter, dated from Constantinople, was published the following day in the *Hamburg Correspondent*. It gave a minute detail of the defensive measures adopted by the Turks, enumerated the batteries erected at different points, the number of guns in each, and a variety of particulars which shewed the local knowledge of the writer. Not a line of this letter, however, was written at Constantinople, but the whole was dictated by Marshal Brune, at that time governor of Hamburgh, to his secretary, on the night after the news had arrived. Marshal Brune having been ambas-

sador at Constantinople, was able to give to this pretended despatch all the semblance of truth.

Though, as has already been observed, the narrative of military occurrences, especially those in which the arms of Britain were not engaged, does not lie within the scope of this work, it must not be omitted, that the year 1808 was distinguished by the commencement of those glorious events in Spain, which led to the most important results, and by giving the first check to that tide of success that had hitherto marked the career of Napoleon, led in the end to the final overthrow of his power, and to the emancipation of Europe, from the yoke under which it had so long groaned.

The notion that Buonaparte was too much engaged in Spain to turn his arms with much effect to any other quarter, did indeed tempt Austria prematurely to risk, in 1809, another attempt to rescue herself and the rest of Germany from his power—an attempt which ended in the total discomfiture of the Emperor, and the disgrace of uniting an Austrian princess to the conqueror, whose faithful consort, Josephine, was divorced in order to make room for her successor. In this year too,

an expedition undertaken by England to Holland, in order to make a diversion in favor of Austria, produced in its final result only calamity and disgrace, though it had commenced with victory and conquest; while in Spain, the calamitous retreat of the gallant Sir John Moore shed a gloom on our prospects in that quarter; so that at the close of the year 1809, Europe seemed to be more than ever at the foot of Napoleon, and all hope appeared to be for ever extinguished, that Louis XVIII. who arrived in England in 1807, with the heroic Duchess of Angouleme, would ever be restored to the throne of his ancestors.

After the signing of the deed of separation in 1809, as above stated, the prince lived a life of comparative retirement, and his chief amusements seem to have been the building of his palace at Brighton, and the adorning of his residence in town. He was seldom seen in public; Mrs. Fitzherbert had her house on the Steyne at Brighton, and the Princess of Wales resided at Blackheath, or Kensington; the King continuing to act as guardian of the Princess Charlotte, who resided at Warwick House, Pall Mall. His Royal

Highness was, however, soon to be called again into public life, by the recurrence of the unhappy malady by which his august father had been before afflicted. In 1810, His Majesty exhibited the most distressing symptoms of mental aberration, to which were superadded loss of sight, and the infirmities of age.

On Thursday, the 25th of October, 1810, the gentleman whose duty it was to be near the King, thought it incumbent on him to communicate to Mr. Perceval, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that a very alarming alteration had suddenly taken place in the speech and conduct of the sovereign. On the ensuing day, the symptoms were greatly increased, and, on the next day, the physicians were examined before the privy council, when they gave it as their opinion, that His Majesty was in a confirmed state of lunacy, but that his speedy recovery might be expected. So rapid and unexpected had been the disorder, that the sign manual could not be obtained for the farther prorogation of Parliament. The Houses therefore met, and adjourned from time to time in hopes of the King's recovery. In this hope his

Royal Highness the Prince of Wales expressed his confidence, and he was induced to declare, that in accepting the reins of government, he should not make any political deviation from the system of his parent. A restricted Regency Bill was passed on the plan of that of 1788, although, on Mr. Lambe's motion to invest the prince with the powers of government without restrictions, the division was 224 to 200.

The ceremonial of the Regency took place at Carlton House, on the 5th of February, 1811, with great pomp. On the 12th, his Royal Highness communicated to Mr. Perceval his resolution not to remove any of his father's official servants, and the next day he repaired to Windsor, where, in a lucid interval of two hours, a most affecting scene took place between the parent and the son. Strong hopes were entertained of a recovery, until the latter end of 1811, when the official reports of the physicians were of a totally different nature, and the Prince Regent avowed, that he no longer expected his royal father's restoration to sanity. On this occasion it was expected that his Royal Highness would have

formed an administration upon those political principles to which he had adhered with uniform consistency, from his first entrance into public life. The prince, however, had laid it down as a rule to himself, especially while holding the reins of government with restricted power, to act in every particular as he presumed the King would have acted, had he been at the head of affairs. This delicacy of feeling was the chief cause of his making, at this period, no change in the administration.

During this period, affairs in Spain were going on with great success, and an important victory was gained in March, 1811, at Barrosa, near Cadiz. On this occasion the prince wrote to general Sir Thomas Graham, now Lord Lynedoch, a complimentary letter on the subject, assuring him of his high estimation for his character, and of his regret, that the restrictions which the two Houses had put upon the regency, prevented him for a time from conferring upon the general and his officers, such marks of his approbation as might best prove his gratitude. His Royal Highness, added, he was sure that in bestowing such a

testimony of his favor, he should only speak the sentiments of the nation at large. In conclusion, his Royal Highness said, that if it should be the will of Providence to re-establish the health of His Majesty, he was confident it would be the first act of the sovereignty, to distinguish the eminent and glorious services of the general and his gallant army, by some signal token of favor; and if it should devolve on himself to discharge this pleasant duty, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, it would be to him the happiest part of the functions he had to fulfil.

The calamity which deprived the fashionable world of the annual celebration of His Majesty's birthday at St. James's, induced the Prince Regent to substitute for it an entertainment which should exceed in brilliancy all fêtes of a similar description that had been given for many years. This grand entertainment took place on the 19th of June, 1811, and afforded a striking proof of the splendid taste and hospitality which so eminently characterised our late most gracious sovereign. The following account, which seems to have been issued by authority, will be read with interest

even now, and with a sigh of regret, perhaps, that the splendid mansion which was the scene of this elegant fête, has been now levelled with the ground, to make way for a new creation.

“Cards of invitation had been long before issued to upwards of two thousand of the nobility and gentry of the country, the foreign ambassadors, the French princes and nobility, and other distinguished foreigners. The doors of Carlton House, and the other avenues of admission, were opened at nine o'clock to the company. Those who went in carriages were admitted under the grand portico; those in sedans at a private entrance at the east end of the colonnade. The ministers and household of the regent entered at the west door of the palace, in the inner courtyard. The state-rooms on the principal floor were thrown open for the reception of the company, wherein the furniture was displayed in all its varied magnificence. You descended the great staircase from the inner hall to the range of apartments on the level of the garden. The whole of this long range, comprehending the library, and the beautiful conservatory at the west end, with

the intervening apartments, was allotted to the supper-tables of the Prince Regent, the royal dukes, the chief of the nobility, and the most illustrious of the foreign visitors.

“It was totally impossible, capacious as the mansion of the prince was, to accommodate such a number of persons in the rooms of the mansion itself. From the central apartment of the lower range, which we have mentioned, on the south or garden-front, proceeded a broad and lofty walk, towards the southern wall of the garden, adjoining St. James's Park, which was crossed by three similar walks, from east to west, lengthwise in the garden. All these walks were closed in by walls, and covered over by awnings made for the occasion. In each of these cross-walks were placed long supper-tables, and at the end of each walk were communications to circular marquees, in which were tables containing all the necessary refreshments for the company, with space for the numerous servants and assistants in attendance. The great walk from the house southward had in it six tables, leaving those spaces quite open where the other walks crossed

it. The intermediate spaces between these were lawns, which communicated to the walks by suitable openings. The interior sides of the walls of all these grand walks were lined with festoons of flowers, yielding the most odoriferous perfumes, and relieved by the verdant and softer beauties that more towering plants and shrubs could bestow. The arched roofs were ornamented in the liveliest manner, and from them were suspended thousands of lights, in all the different forms and fashions by which illumination can be produced. The *coup-d'œil* of the whole, especially from the central south entrance to the garden, was inexpressibly delightful, and even magically impressive. The entrance was under an illuminated arch, and the southern end of the walk was filled by an immense mirror, and ornamented at the top and sides with a superb drapery, and with artificial flowers and costly candelabras: particularly the long range of supper-rooms on the garden level, at the head of which the regent sat, at the west end of the conservatory, inspired the highest ideas of regal magnificence. This range, beginning from the

east end, comprises the new Gothic rooms, not yet entirely finished, but temporarily hung with crimson, and the library beautifully ornamented with marbles. In these apartments there were two rows of tables, elegantly adorned. The centre room was left open. To the west, the eating room, &c. and the conservatory, had one long table running through both. The appearance of the conservatory was truly striking and brilliant. The architecture of it is of the most delicate Gothic. The upper end was a kind of circular boufet, surmounted by a medallion, with the initials G. P. R. lined by festoons and antique draperies of pink and silver, and partly filled by mirrors, before which, on ornamented shelves, stood a variety of vases, candlesticks, &c. of the most gorgeous gold plate. Supplied, as indeed all the tables were, with every attainable delicacy and luxury, which wealth and rank could command, or ingenuity could suggest, and embellished by all the art and skill of the confectioner, with emblematical devices of every conceivable appropriate description, this table displayed a still more splendid exuberance. In the front of

the regent's seat, there was a circular bason of water, with an enriched temple in the centre of it, from whence there was a meandering stream to the bottom of the table, bordered with green banks. Three or four fantastic bridges were thrown over it, one of them with a small tower upon it, which gave the little stream a picturesque appearance. It contained also a number of gold and silver fish. The excellence of design, and exquisiteness of workmanship, could not be exceeded: it exhibited a grandeur beyond description; while the many and various purposes for which gold and silver materials were used, were equally beautiful and superb in all their minute details. The surprising lustre thrown upon the whole by the brilliancy of the illumination, seemed to realise all that fancy has feigned of the magnificent wonders of oriental creation.

“The company, who continued to arrive from nine till half-past twelve, were ushered into the state-rooms, and soon filled the house. The hall was crowded with peers and peeresses, and was made the same use of as the apartments of state.

Under the grand arched door-way between the halls, was a most elegant scarlet and gold drapery, after the antique.

“The male part of the nobility and gentry were habited in court suits, many richly embroidered, or in military and naval uniforms. The waving plumage—the elegant variegated dresses—the sparkling diamonds—and, still more, the native beauty and grace of the ladies, gave a sort of enchanting perfection to the whole of this brilliant courtly exhibition. *La vielle Cour de Versailles*, with all its proud pretensions, could never have more attractively set forth the elegant fascinations of fashionable life and exalted rank.

“The upper servants of his Royal Highness’s household wore a rich costume of dark blue, trimmed with very broad gold lace: the others wore their state liveries. A considerable number of the yeomen of the guard attended in different parts. The assistants out of livery were dressed uniformly, in black suits with white vests. Two of the bands of the guards, in state uniform, played various airs throughout the night. Parties of the foot-guards protected all the immediate

avenues ; and the horse guards were stationed in Pall-mall, St. James's-street, St. James's-square, Piccadilly, &c. Every thing was managed, with the assistance of the police, with unexampled care and convenience."

The report of all these splendid arrangements having naturally excited much curiosity, the Prince Regent was pleased to give permission to the public to view the apartments, on three successive days, the 24th, 25th, and 26th of June, by tickets. On the first two days, Pall Mall was crowded by persons either waiting for admission, or as mere spectators, to the number, it was supposed, of from 20,000 to 30,000, but by the precautions taken, no accident happened on those two days. But Wednesday, the 26th, being the last day on which Carlton House was to remain open for exhibition, all was bustle at an early hour. At six o'clock, splendid equipages were already in motion from all parts of the town. The cards of admission being generally for a company of seven or eight, groups of people, elegantly dressed, might be seen advancing in every adjacent street, to the great scene of attraction ; and the number

collected in front of Carlton House, by seven o'clock, amounted to several thousands. About eleven o'clock, the spectators began to be admitted; and, to prevent disorder and confusion, a strong party of guards, both civil and military, was placed at the gates. The course adopted was, to admit about 200 at a time; and, as soon as they had satisfied their curiosity with a view of the interior, they were let out through the rear into St. James's Park, and a new party was admitted at the front. An operation of this kind occupied about thirty minutes, and it was repeated every half hour until three o'clock. The crowd on the outside had now increased to an immense extent, filling up not only the space in front of Carlton House, but spreading itself down Pall Mall, and into the Haymarket. Their number could not be less than 30,000. Of all this great mass, however, embracing a large proportion of well-dressed females, none were able to get near to the gate, except those who had arrived previous to eleven o'clock in the morning. All who came after that hour saw between them and the wished-for land a crowd through which it was impossible

to force their way, and who stood before them for preferment. The heat was oppressive in the extreme; several ladies fainted away, and their situation was the more alarming, as in few instances did the density of the crowd permit their removal into the open air, for the admission of assistance. It appeared like the waves of the sea; for so compact was the whole body, that the motion of a single individual agitated the whole mass, and when one moved, his motion was of necessity communicated to the rest of the body. Appearances now became very alarming. The shouts and shrieks of females were frightful. The crowd and pressure increased, and it was necessary to do something to restrain their impatience. In this state of things, Lord Yarmouth came forward, and addressed the crowd. He said, he was desired by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to request they would not be so impatient, as it was his wish that the public at large should be gratified with a view of the apartments. The gate was then opened, with the intention of admitting the usual number, when it became exactly like some of those rushes at our theatres which

have sometimes produced such melancholy consequences. Those behind irresistibly pushed on those before; and of the number of delicate and helpless females who were present, some were thrown down, and, shocking to relate, literally trod upon by those behind, without the possibility of being extricated. When at last the crowd got inside Carlton House gates, four females were found almost in a lifeless state, lying on their backs on the ground, with their clothes almost completely torn off. One young lady, elegantly attired, or rather who had been so, presented a shocking spectacle; she had been trodden on until her face was quite black from strangulation, and every part of her body bruised to such a degree, as to leave little hopes of recovery; surgical assistance was immediately had, but her life was not expected to be saved. An elderly lady had her leg broken, and was carried away in a chair; and two others were also seriously hurt, but, on being bled, were restored to animation. One of them was able to walk home, the other was led by two men.

The situation of almost all the ladies who were

involved in this terrible rush, was truly deplorable; very few of them could leave Carlton House until furnished with a fresh supply of clothes; they were to be seen all round the gardens, most of them without shoes or gowns; and many almost completely undressed, and their hair hanging about their shoulders. The crowd outside at one time literally carried away the horse guards for several paces; when the animals became restive to an alarming degree, rearing on their hind legs, and beating down all within their reach with their fore feet: several women were trodden under foot, and received considerable injury; and five or six men were so overcome that they fainted, and were carried off. At half-past four o'clock, his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence came forward, and addressed the populace. He told them, he was desired by his royal brother, the Prince Regent, to say, that however happy he should be to gratify the public, yet, from the unfortunate accidents that had occurred, he had been advised to close the gates, and that he had ordered they should not be again opened. Placards to the same effect were also placed upon

the gates, and on the pillars in front of the house ; but the crowd, although sensibly diminished, remained formidable until near dusk, when they began to disperse rapidly. During the whole of this very anxious and distressing scene, Lord Yarmouth, and Colonels M'Mahon, Bloomfield, and Palmer, paid every possible attention to the people, and did all in their power for their safety and accommodation. Great praise was also due to the military, particularly the horse guards, for their patience and forbearance : although often pressed, and almost borne down by the people, they treated them with the greatest kindness and forbearance, and never were betrayed into an intemperate or uncivil word or action.

As the restrictions on the power of the Regent expired in 1812, it was expected by many that the prince would then certainly form a new administration, in which the most distinguished of his old friends would hold the first places. His own views on this subject are, however, fully explained in the following letter to the Duke of York :—

“ MY DEAREST BROTHER,

“ As the restrictions on the exercise of the royal authority will shortly expire, when I must make my arrangements for the future administration of the powers with which I am invested, I think it right to communicate those sentiments which I was withheld from expressing at an earlier period of the session, by my warmest desire, that the expected motion on the affairs of Ireland might undergo the deliberate discussion of Parliament, unmingled with any other consideration.

“ I think it hardly necessary to call your recollection to the recent circumstances under which I assumed the authority delegated to me by Parliament. At a moment of unexampled difficulty and danger, I was called upon to make a selection of persons to whom I should entrust the functions of the executive government. My sense of duty to our royal father solely decided that choice; and every private feeling gave way to considerations which admitted of no doubt or hesitation. I trust I acted in that respect as the genuine representative of the august person whose functions I was appointed to discharge; and I have

the satisfaction of knowing, that such was the opinion of persons for whose judgment and honorable feelings I entertain the highest respect. In various instances, as you well know, where the law of the last session left me at full liberty, I waved any personal gratification, in order that His Majesty might resume, on his restoration to health, every power and prerogative belonging to the crown. I certainly am the last person in the kingdom to whom it can be permitted to despair of our royal father's recovery. A new era is now arrived, and I cannot but reflect with satisfaction on the events which have distinguished the short period of my restricted regency. Instead of suffering in the loss of her possessions, by the gigantic force which has been employed against them, Great Britain has added most important acquisitions to her empire. The national faith has been preserved inviolable towards our allies; and, if character is strength, as applied to a nation, the increased and increasing reputation of His Majesty's arms, will show to the nations of the continent how much they may achieve when animated by a glorious spirit of resistance to a

foreign yoke. In the critical situation of the war in the Peninsula, I shall be most anxious to avoid any measure which can lead my allies to suppose that I mean to depart from the present system. Perseverance alone can achieve the great object in question; and I cannot withhold my approbation from those who have honorably distinguished themselves in support of it. I have no predilection to indulge—no resentments to gratify—no objects to attain but such as are common to the whole empire. If such is the leading principle of my conduct—and I can appeal to the past as evidence of what the future will be—I flatter myself I shall meet with the support of Parliament, and of a candid and enlightened nation. Having made this communication of my sentiments in this new and extraordinary crisis of our affairs, I cannot conclude without expressing the gratification I should feel, if some of those persons with whom the early habits of my public life were formed, would strengthen my hands, and constitute a part of my government. With such support, and aided by a vigorous and united administration, formed on the most liberal basis, I

shall look with additional confidence to a prosperous issue of the most arduous contest in which Great Britain was ever engaged. You are authorised to communicate these sentiments to Lord Grey, who, I have no doubt, will make them known to Lord Grenville.

“I am always, my dearest Frederick, your ever affectionate brother,

(Signed) “GEORGE P. R.

“*Carlton House, Feb. 13, 1812.*

“P. S. I shall send a copy of this letter immediately to Mr. Perceval.”

The noblemen thus distinguished by the prince's desire to enlist their acknowledged talents in the support of his government, having declined to coalesce with Mr. Perceval, no change took place.

On the 20th of April, 1812, a message was sent to the House of Commons from the Prince Regent, requesting the House to take into consideration the propriety of making such a provision for their Royal Highnesses the Princesses, as might be thought suitable. On the Monday following

an animated discussion took place, but no mention being made of the Princess of Wales, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Bennet, and Mr. Whitbread, desired to know why the princess appeared in her present situation, respecting whose reputed separation from the prince, they as members of Parliament knew nothing. The princess, they thought, had a right to be treated as Queen; they blamed Mr. Perceval, formerly her most zealous champion, for having abandoned her cause, and alluded to *The Book*, which he had formerly been prepared to circulate all over Europe, but had since suppressed.

In reply to these observations, Mr. Perceval said, with regard to the separation of the royal persons he should say nothing. And as to what he was bound to do as affected his own character and conduct, he should always judge for himself. He had no objection to state, that neither as counsel to her Royal Highness, nor as minister, nor in any other capacity, could he recollect any thing to bring as a charge against her Royal Highness, nor did he entertain any opinion calculated to throw the slightest reflection on her.

Further than this he should not state. As to the situation of her Royal Highness, he had no instruction to propose any additional grant, but if Parliament could be induced to think favourably of the measure, he for one should be inclined to give that disposition full effect.

The resolution for adding £6,000 per annum to the income of the Princesses Augusta, Sophia, Elizabeth, and Mary, was then agreed to. Nothing further occurred in Parliament, at that time, relative to the Princess of Wales.

“The Book” having been thus publicly alluded to, considerable attention was of course excited to the subject. Advertisements, relative to it, and various rumors respecting “*the Delicate Investigation*,” had, however, long before this time, served to amuse and engage the public attention. But of this extraordinary book nothing was with certainty known. The public expectation was for a long time intense, and the anxiety to possess a copy of this mysterious document was unusually great.

The following is believed to be a true history of the various fates of this celebrated production.

The princess of Wales had, in 1807, complained of the delay which had taken place in restoring her to His Majesty's presence and favor; and in the correspondence with His Majesty, said that the publication of the proceedings relative to the charges of Lady Douglas seemed to be almost the only means left her to vindicate her honor and character. Mr. Perceval himself had arranged those proceedings, and had them printed by Mr. Edwards, of Crane-court, Fleet-street. The proof-sheets were sent to an *ostensible* editor at the west-end of the town, who conveyed them to his master, and in due time returned them for impression. The number worked off was only 500 copies; and this small number has been mentioned as a proof that the book was never intended for the public eye, but most probably for a more important purpose. In the printing of this work, the most profound secrecy was observed; the whole of the 500 copies except two, were delivered at the house of the principal in the transaction; and soon after Mr. Perceval was appointed First Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the

book was suppressed ; a few copies of “ the Book ” had got into the world, and they were bought up at an immense price. One editor of a newspaper was said to have obtained £1,500 for his copy, and several other copies were bought up at £500, £750, and similar sums.

The chancellor (in 1808) had issued an injunction against one editor, who had declared that he possessed a copy, and would republish it. He was restrained under a penalty of £5,000, and afterwards sold his copy for an enormous sum. In the *Morning Chronicle* of the 24th March, 1809, was the following advertisement:

“ A Book! a Book!

“ The following advertisement appeared yesterday in a ministerial paper:—

“ *A Book*.—Any person having in their possession a copy of a certain book, printed by Mr. Edwards, in 1807, but never published, with W. Lindsell’s name as the seller of the same on the title-page, and will bring it to W. Lindsell, bookseller, Wimpole-street, will receive a handsome gratuity.”

It is well known that *the Book* was, notwith-

standing all these precautions, reprinted in 1813, but the following particulars relative to this affair are, we believe, now published for the first time.

When a change in the ministry was in contemplation in 1807, Mr. Perceval, thinking the time was come when he might be admitted to a share in the government, made, it is said, some proposals which were not at first deemed such as could be granted. As he was to give up his practice at the bar, he required that first of all the chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster should be granted to him for life, and that he should hold the offices of Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Treasury. Some demur being made, he intimated an intention of printing *the Book*. On this he was informed that no objection would be made to giving him the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer. He still insisted on the chancellorship of Lancaster as a provision for life; and this not being assented to, he printed the Book, and shewed a copy, in consequence of which he obtained his object, and the book was suppressed. What happened afterwards with respect to the few copies that had

got into other hands, has been stated above. But while Mr. Perceval was in power, a person whose name need not be mentioned here, got possession of the manuscripts, and brought them to an eminent bookseller in the city, proposing that he should purchase and publish them. The bookseller, who had no inclination to do any thing unpleasant to the ministry, which he supported, dissuaded the holder of them from publishing, and said, that as it must be indifferent to him in what manner he obtained a profit on the manuscripts, he proposed that they should be left with him, and that he should inform a friend in the treasury that he had them in his hands. The possessor agreed to this, and the bookseller accordingly wrote, stating the circumstances. In consequence of this a gentleman from the treasury called on him early the following morning, and the matter ended in the manuscripts being given up for a valuable consideration. The bookseller, on whose authority these circumstances are stated, relates that he looked over the manuscripts while he had them in his possession, and that the quantity was much more than what

afterwards appeared as *The Book*. He particularly remembers two very long letters from the King to the Princess of Wales, which he never saw elsewhere, and which gave him a higher idea of the correct judgment and excellent sense of the King than any thing else that can be with certainty ascribed to him.

On the 17th of April, on the motion in the House of Commons for the third reading of the bills for granting an annuity to the princesses, Mr. Whitbread again alluded to the Princess of Wales, expressing his astonishment that all mention of her Royal Highness had been omitted. As it had been announced that the Queen was to hold a drawing-room, the public naturally inquired, he said, why the Princess of Wales had no appointment, and why she was not to preside on such occasions. She ought to be enabled, he said, under present circumstances, to hold a drawing-room. He spoke again of the Book, and of its being bought up at a great expense. To the observations of Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Perceval, however, maintained a complete silence.

On the 30th of the same month, for the first

time for nearly two years past, Her Majesty held a drawing-room, which was numerously attended. The Regent went in state. The Princess of Wales was also there; but it was so arranged, as her Royal Highness was determined to attend, that she should go sooner than the Prince Regent, and retire before his appearance: of course their Royal Highnesses did not meet. The Prince Regent gave, in the evening, a splendid entertainment at Carlton House, to the Queen, his sisters the princesses, and the nobility and gentry.

On Monday, May 11th, 1812, Mr. Perceval was assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons, from a motive of personal and private vengeance, by a desperate and decayed merchant of the name of Bellingham, who, having failed in some commercial operations in Russia, and not obtained from the Russian government the redress to which he thought himself entitled, had made several applications to the ministers to interfere in his behalf, and, failing in this, was resolved to be revenged, which he executed in this dreadful manner. He did not attempt to escape, and readily acknowledged the deed, which he justi-

fied. As the courts were then sitting, he was soon brought to trial, and executed on the 18th of the same month. He prepared for his fate with great composure, and persisted to the last in the perverse notion of the justice of what he had done.

The Prince Regent, who was deeply affected with the loss of so able and upright a minister as Mr. Perceval had proved himself to be, sent a message to Parliament the very next day, lamenting the melancholy event, and recommending an adequate provision for the widow and family of the murdered minister.

A circumstance relative to the foreign policy of England, which occurred during the administration of Mr. Perceval, deserves to be mentioned here, as it is not generally known.

When Sweden was brought to the brink of ruin, by the ill-judged perseverance of Gustavus IV. in resisting the overwhelming power of Russia, which, in consequence of the new friendship between Alexander and Napoleon, had unjustly declared war against Sweden, and seized on Finland, several of the Swedish nobility resolved that he should be deposed, if he did not soon adopt a

system of foreign policy and domestic government less dangerous to the safety of the kingdom. Finding that matters were not likely to improve, they resolved to carry their plan into execution; and as the King's son was quite a child, to exclude him also. They also resolved, to prevent jealousies among the Swedish nobility, to call a foreigner to the throne, and, after mature deliberation, decided to apply to England. Considering the danger of such a negociation, they chose for their negociator an English gentleman of great respectability, then in Sweden, who was personally known to most of them. Him, therefore, they sent to England, with sufficient credentials, to make to the British government a communication to the following effect:—"That the parties concerned had resolved on deposing the King, as indispensable to the salvation of the kingdom; that they offered the crown of Sweden to the King of England, to be given to an English prince, whom His Majesty might choose; but particularly naming, however, his Royal Highness Prince William of Gloucester, because he, belonging to the collateral line, there was less

likelihood that he or his descendants would be called to the crown of England, with which it was to be expressly understood that of Sweden should never be united. They requested the English government to be assured, that its refusal to accede to this proposal would not preserve the King of Sweden on his throne, his deposition being irrevocably decided on; so that they should be obliged to make an application to some other quarter, the result of which would, perhaps, not be so agreeable to England."

The negociator came to London, and communicated with the ministers, and after remaining about three weeks, was sent back with an answer to the effect that, "England having maintained so long and arduous a contest, to uphold the legitimate governments of Europe, against revolution and usurpation, could not be a party to the overthrow of one of the oldest sovereign houses of Europe, even if the head of it were not one of her most faithful allies." With this answer the gentleman returned to Sweden, nor was his mission ever suspected. The sequel is well known: the Swedish nobles deposed their sovereign, and ex-

cluded all his family from the throne. To gain time to look out for a foreign prince, they placed on the throne the uncle of their dethroned monarch, a man advanced in years, and without children, who took the name of Charles XIII. This monarch was induced to adopt for his son and successor, Prince Charles Augustus of Augustenberg, a subject of the King of Denmark, who was a very accomplished young prince. In January, 1810, he went to Stockholm, took the oaths of fidelity, and received the homage of the estates of the kingdom; but, on the 29th of May, the same year, while reviewing some cavalry, he was seized with sudden illness, fell from his horse, and expired shortly after. At his funeral, three weeks afterwards, a most disgraceful scene took place. Count Fersen, who, as High Marshal, led the procession, was brutally assaulted by the mob, who accused him of having murdered the Crown Prince, and after a vain attempt to escape, he was assassinated with the most savage ferocity by the populace. In consequence of the sudden death of the newly-elected Crown Prince, it was necessary to find another, and the choice fell on

Marshal Bernadotte, the present King. How he came to be chosen, is not a point to be entered upon here.

The assassination of Mr. Perceval led Mr. Stuart Wortley, on the 21st of May, to move an address to the Prince Regent, praying his Royal Highness to take such measures as might be best calculated to form an efficient administration. The address was carried against ministers, and the answer returned was, that his Royal Highness would take the address into serious and immediate consideration. Expectations of a new ministry were generally entertained, and the prince gave directions to the Marquis Wellesley, to take measures for forming a strong and efficient administration. The negociation between Lord Wellesley and Lords Grey and Grenville, and some members of the existing administration, however, broke off on a preliminary question. Mr. Canning afterwards stated, in the House of Commons, that Lord Moira, fearing that he was not entirely understood by the prince when he received his unrestricted commands to form an

administration, on returning to the royal presence he put this question directly—"Is your Royal Highness prepared, if I should so advise it, to part with all the officers of your household?" The answer was, "I am." "Then (said Lord Moira) your Royal Highness shall not part with one of them." On June the 8th, the Earl of Liverpool stated, in the House of Lords, that the Prince Regent had on that day appointed him First Lord of the Treasury, and the Liverpool administration was immediately formed.

On the 30th of September, the eagles and ensigns taken from the French in the Peninsula, were, with great ceremony, deposited in Whitehall chapel.

On the 30th of November, 1812, the Prince Regent (now unfettered by restrictions) delivered, in the new Parliament, his first speech from the throne.

As it was eight years since the King had attended Parliament, great interest was made to obtain tickets of admission to the House of Lords. The Princesses Augusta, Elizabeth, and Mary,

and the Princess Charlotte of Wales, were present, being conducted to the House by the Duke of Cumberland.

The Prince Regent, in this his first address in person to Parliament, adverts with satisfaction to the improved state of affairs by the successes of the British and allied army on the continent, during the course of the past year. But as the prince may be considered as having this year commenced his reign, the restrictions on his power having expired, and the King having never afterwards sufficiently recovered to resume the reins of government, it may not be amiss to take a very brief review of the various events by which the power of the enemy was at length checked.

At the commencement of the regency, Napoleon was in the zenith of his power. His resources seemed to be inexhaustible, and his power boundless. The object of England, to which all her efforts had been steadily directed, was to exhaust his resources, and to weaken his power. But it was not till the year preceding the era of the regency, that hope promised to crown her perseverance and courage.

In that year the islands of Bourbon and Amboyna had been taken, and an attack on the island of Sicily which had long been in preparation was repulsed, and the enemy's designs on Portugal and Cadiz frustrated. Disputes with America were at the beginning of the regency a subject of negociation, and the prince expressed an earnest wish for an amicable termination.

The first decided check given to Napoleon on land, was certainly in the Spanish Peninsula, where, after various turns of fortune from the year 1808, when Spain first rose indignant against the invader, who had so basely entrapped the family of the lawful sovereign, the scale was at length turned wholly to the advantage of Great Britain and her allies.

Arthur Wellesley, the hero of Assaye, was called to conduct the operations of Britain in the European Peninsula. His courage was not rash or headlong. His plans extended beyond a single battle. He foresaw from Vimiera the invasion of France. He conquered by retreat, gained time and strength, and waited for opportunity to become the assailant in his turn. Marshals of France

undertook, in succession, the glorious task of driving this intruder into the sea. They were each in turn compelled to yield to the superior ability of their adversary.

The kingdom of Portugal was completely delivered from the French invading army, in 1811. In that year, too, brilliant success crowned the English arms in the East, by the conquest of the island of Java. But the blessings of peace seemed still as remote as ever. Napoleon not only continued to enforce with the greatest rigor his measures for excluding British commerce from the continent of Europe, but in order to give them more effect, annexed the whole of Holland, and the North of Germany, as far as the Elbe, to the French empire. Meantime, the two belligerent powers had, by their measures of mutual retaliation, given causes of complaint to the United States of America, which threatened to lead to hostilities with one or both powers.

Though the year 1812 was distinguished by the continued success of Lord Wellington, in Spain, where he gained the great victory of Salamanca, and obliged the French to leave

Madrid, every other interest sinks into insignificance in comparison with Napoleon's expedition to Russia, and the mighty destruction that overwhelmed the invading army, which probably in numbers, and certainly in real effective strength, was the most formidable ever brought into the field in modern times. If the march of that mighty host, the tremendous battles of Borodino and the Moskwa, the occupation of Moscow by the French, the awful destruction of that ancient capital of the Czars, and the invincible firmness and patriotism of Alexander and his people, had filled Europe alternately with dismay, horror, and admiration, the celebrated 29th bulletin, unfolding a tale of disaster and human misery, unparalleled in military annals, electrified Europe, and awakened, in the hearts of enslaved and degraded nations, a hope that they might yet throw off the yoke of foreign oppression.

The difficulties of England were this year increased by the commencement of a war with the United States of America, which, far from sympathising with the parent state in the arduous struggle in which she was then engaged, in the

defence not only of her own rights, but of the liberty of Europe, took advantage of her situation to act towards her in a manner which rendered war unavoidable; and by thus distracting her attention, and dividing her force, made a most unseasonable diversion in favor of France, against whom they had grounds of complaint much more serious than any that could be alleged against Great Britain.

Notwithstanding the entire failure of Buonaparte's invasion of Russia, which had destroyed almost the whole of his veteran troops, he was enabled, by extraordinary exertions, again to return to Germany with a formidable army, and to meet the Russians, (now joined by the Prussian army,) who had advanced into Germany, but were, if not entirely defeated, yet checked in their career, by the battles of Lützen and Bautzen; in consequence of which they retreated towards the Oder. Though hostilities were suspended by a short armistice, they were again renewed with increased energy, Austria having joined the allies; and, after a series of victories, among which those of the veteran Blucher, in

Silesia, and those of the Crown Prince of Sweden, (Bernadotte,) deserve particular mention, the fate of Buonaparte again appeared to be decided by the tremendous battle, or rather battles, of Leipsic, on the 17th, 18th, and 19th of October, 1813, in which the Emperors of Austria and Russia, the King of Prussia, the Crown Prince of Sweden, and a long list of distinguished captains, were present. In this list, one great name was unhappily missing, that of the celebrated General Moreau, who, having come from America on purpose to join the Emperor Alexander, in the hope of contributing to the deliverance of Europe, was struck, in a reconnoissance, almost close to the Emperor Alexander, by a cannon ball, which carried off both his thighs; and in consequence of which, he died a few days afterwards. After the battle of Leipsic, Napoleon proceeded on his retreat; and, after a desperate battle with the Bavarian army, under General Wrede, at Hanau, crossed the Rhine at Mayence. All Germany declared against France, with the exception of Saxony, whose aged King having remained pertinaciously attached to Napoleon to the last,

though a part of his troops joined the allies, was considered by the sovereigns as an enemy. The enthusiasm excited by the discomfiture of Napoleon soon reached Holland, where, on the 15th of November, the people of Amsterdam rose in a body, and, with the old cry of *Orange Boven*, universally put up Orange colors, and proclaimed the sovereignty of that illustrious house. The news of this unlooked-for revolution was hailed with extraordinary joy in England, and the Prince of Orange quitting the hospitable shores, where he and his family had so long enjoyed an asylum, landed, on the 30th of November, and on the 1st of December made his solemn entry into Amsterdam.

The arms of Great Britain, in Spain, were still victorious. Suchet was repulsed from his defensive lines, and Lord Wellington pressed on by Salamanca to Madrid. King Joseph Buonaparte retired upon the Ebro, and a decisive action at Vittoria left Wellington a conqueror, and compelled the French army to retreat across the Bidossoa. The castles of Pampeluna and Sebas-

tian fell before the united army, and Wellington entered France.

The battle of Vittoria was celebrated in London with great rejoicings and splendid illuminations, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of July; and, on the 20th, there was a magnificent fête at Vauxhall, in honor of the victory. The Dukes of York, Clarence, Kent, Sussex, Cambridge, and Gloucester, were present; the Princess of Wales also honored the gardens, accompanied by Ladies Campbell and Glenbervie. Her Royal Highness was conducted several times round the chief promenade, by the Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Brunswick, (her brother), and Colonel St. Leger, but was not accommodated with a seat. The sequel of this fête was extremely disagreeable; the crowd of carriages was so great, and the arrangements so imperfect, that the company, on leaving the gardens, could not, in many instances, reach their carriages, and hundreds of ladies, after waiting for hours, had to walk home. It was a scene of inextricable confusion, and no little danger, by which nearly two hundred carriages were

destroyed. Among the trophies displayed at this fête, was the baton of Marshal Jourdan, taken at the battle of Vittoria. The Prince Regent, after the receipt of this, and the other trophies of that memorable day, wrote a letter to the Marquess of Wellington, in which, after expressing his gratitude to his lordship for his great achievements, he is said to have added, that in return for Jourdan's baton, his Royal Highness thought he could not do better than send him the baton of a British Field-Marshal.

During the course of this year, the public mind was again disturbed by parliamentary discussions concerning the situation of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

On the 14th of January, 1813, her Royal Highness transmitted a sealed letter upon the subject of the education of the Princess Charlotte, to the Prince Regent, with two open copies to the Earls of Liverpool and Eldon. This letter, the production of Dr. Parr, was admirably drawn up. It was returned unopened; but, after several addresses to Lord Liverpool, his Lordship was obliged to reply, and he wrote that the letter had

been read to his Royal Highness, but “ he had not been pleased to express his pleasure thereon.” This letter was afterwards published in the *Morning Chronicle*. The publication so irritated the Prince, that he personally forbade any intercourse between the Princess of Wales and the Princess Charlotte.

This letter to the prince not having produced the effect desired, her Royal Highness wrote another to the Speaker of the House of Commons, stating, that Lord Sidmouth had communicated to her the report of the commissioners appointed to enquire into her conduct in 1806. The friends of the princess forced on the reluctant House the agitation of this most distressing question; but though much argument was used on both sides, little of interest was elicited, and no further light thrown on the delicate investigation of 1806. The strongest language was made use of to express the abhorrence of one party against what was termed a deliberate conspiracy to destroy the life and honor of her Royal Highness; and on the other side it was urged with scarce less vehemence, that every discussion could only tend to widen

the breach between the high personages most intimately concerned. On the 23d of March, her Royal Highness had the misfortune to witness the death of her mother the Duchess of Brunswick, only surviving sister of King George III.

Though the prince, vexed at the publication of the letter in the *Chronicle*, would not at that time allow his daughter to visit her mother, this inhibition, it seems, was not intended to be permanent, for on the 26th of March, the Princess Charlotte dined with the Princess of Wales, at Blackheath, when an affecting interview took place. The public were much gratified at this renewal of the intercourse between the princess and her daughter, and the Princess of Wales, in an answer to an address from the Livery of the City of London, congratulating her on what they called her happy escape from the conspiracy against her honor and her life, said she would lose no opportunity of encouraging the talents and virtues of her dear daughter.

The Prince Regent went in state to close the session, on the 22nd of July, and in his speech, amidst so many subjects of triumph and congra-

tulation, the only cause for regret was the continuance of the war with America.

On the 4th of November, 1813, the Regent opened the session in a speech from the throne, and the address was carried with an unusual degree of unanimity. So important did the moment appear, and so essentially necessary was exertion considered to be, that a loan of £22,000,000, and foreign subsidies to the amount of £11,000,000, with 100,000 stand of arms, were granted, without a dissentient voice. This was the essential business of the session, and the Parliament was adjourned till the month of March in the following year.

On the 27th of December, Lord Castlereagh, with a numerous suite, set out from London, on an important mission to the head-quarters of the allied powers.

The state of affairs at the close of 1813, was such as to hold out an almost certain prospect of the speedy termination of the mighty contest, which had been so long carried on between France and the other powers of Europe. Before crossing the Rhine, the allied sovereigns offered

peace, and a greater extent of territory to France, than it possessed before the revolution.

The winter of 1813-1814 was one of the longest and most severe ever experienced in England. The Prince Regent caused circulars to be addressed to the sheriffs of the counties, with directions to use every means in their power for restoring the communications between London and the provinces, which the fall of snow and the bad state of the roads had interrupted.

Meantime the last act of the great drama was proceeding in France. While Lord Castlereagh was engaged at Chatillon in negotiating with the plenipotentiaries of Buonaparte, the war was continued with extraordinary vigor on both sides. In this last conflict for his throne Napoleon displayed, in the opinion of many competent judges, a still higher degree of military skill than even he himself had ever shown in his long and triumphant career; but the numbers of the armies opposed to him, commanded as they were by generals of consummate skill, and encouraged by the presence of the sovereigns, baffled all his efforts; and yet it seems to have been owing to

an overweening, if not superstitious confidence in his fortune, that a treaty was not concluded at Chatillon, by which he would have been acknowledged Emperor of the French, and the family of the Bourbons perhaps for ever excluded. The negociation was broken off on the 18th of March. While this was passing on the north of France, Lord Wellington prosecuted his victorious career in the south; and sent a detachment of his army under Marshal Beresford to Bordeaux, where he arrived on the 12th of March. He was welcomed with joy by the magistrates and inhabitants, who assumed the white cockade, and thus this most important city was the first openly to declare for a counter revolution. The Duke d'Angoulême, who was with the British army, was received with the warmest acclamations.

One bold and rather desperate effort was made by Napoleon to arrest the fall of his fortunes. He resolved to push between the two allied armies, to interrupt their communications, and fall in the rear of the Austrians, and should he defeat them, to take such measures as might be the most advantageous. His intentions were

discovered by an intercepted letter, and a council was immediately called at the head-quarters of the allied sovereigns, at which it was resolved immediately to unite all their forces, and march directly to Paris. It has been stated that it was at first proposed in this council, to retreat, but that Lord Castlereagh said, "And what have we to fear if we advance?" This led to a discussion, the results of which, were the surrender of Paris to the allies, the deposition and subsequent abdication of Napoleon, the restoration of the Bourbons, and the termination of a war of twenty years' duration, by a peace, which without being humiliating to France, was glorious to the allies, and, on the whole, equally honorable to the valor of their armies, and to the moderation and wisdom of their councils.

In March, the Duchess of Oldenburg, sister to the Emperor of Russia, honored the Prince Regent with a visit, and assisted in the honors paid to the royal family of France, on their restoration to the regal dignity.

The happy events in France, now rendering

the presence of His Majesty Louis XVIII. in the capital of his kingdom highly necessary, he left Hartwell, where he had been residing in dignified retirement for some years, but with very little apparent probability of that joyful turn of fortune, which now awaited him.

The 20th of April, 1814, was the memorable day on which the inhabitants of London witnessed the unprecedented scene of a King of France making his public entry into the metropolis of the British Empire, accompanied by the Prince Regent, as ostensible sovereign of these kingdoms. Among the many proud days which adorn the British annals, there is scarcely any one on which the mind may dwell with more sincere satisfaction. It was not a mere empty pageant, overpowering the mind for a moment by its ostentatious, but transitory, splendor; it was a scene calculated to call forth the noblest feelings of the human breast—gratitude to Heaven, and good-will to mankind; joy and conscious triumph at the retrospect of that long series of awful dangers, happily sur-

mounted by invincible perseverance, and hope in the duration of that peace now so auspiciously restored.

At four in the morning the Prince Regent's state carriage, with seven of the usual royal equipages, with out-riders, had set out for Stanmore, where His Majesty was to breakfast.

The prince timely left Carlton House in his travelling carriage, for Stanmore, at half-past twelve o'clock, attended by the Duke of Montrose, master of the horse, and Viscount Melbourne, the lord in waiting. His Royal Highness's postillions were dressed in white jackets, with white hats and cockades.

The Duchess of Oldenburg sent invitations to the Queen and the Princesses Elizabeth, Mary, Charlotte of Wales, and Sophia of Gloucester, to come to the Pulteney Hotel, to see the royal procession: they all went except Her Majesty; and there the Royal party were also joined by the Russian ambassador, the Countess Lieven, the Baron Nicolai, &c.

The Prince Regent arrived at the Abercorn Arms inn, at Stanmore, about two o'clock, from

whence the procession was to pass. Numbers of the nobility and gentry of that part of the country, went a mile out of the town to accompany the King of France into Stanmore; and when His Majesty had got within a short distance, the populace took the horses from his carriage, and drew him into the village. The Prince Regent was at the door of the inn in readiness to receive His Majesty, which his Royal Highness did according to the custom of the French nation, by embracing him: they conversed in the French language.

The procession being formed, it began to move in the following order, at twenty minutes past three o'clock:—

One hundred Gentlemen on horseback.

Horse Trumpeters.

A numerous party of the Royal Horse Guards.

Six Royal carriages, each drawn by six bays, the servants with white cockades; an out-rider to each carriage.

A party of the Royal Horse Guards.

Lastly came the state carriage, in which were the King of France, the Duchess d'Angouleme,

and the Prince Regent, drawn by eight cream-colored horses.

An officer of the Royal Horse Guards rode at each window, and a numerous party of horse closed the procession. Though, from some changes in the arrangements, it became generally known in the morning, that the train could not reach town till between five and six o'clock, such was the impatience of the multitude, that the principal avenues were crowded by noon. But this multitude was not the mere populace; persons of the first distinction lined the road with their equipages; and perhaps not the least delightful and admirable part of the day's exhibition was to be found among the spectators. The day was fine, a temperate sun, a summer air, a sky almost without a cloud: wherever the eye ranged, it fell on splendor and beauty, attitudes and countenances of loveliness and joy. From Albemarle-street to the Park, was almost one mass of carriages, with females of the first fashion standing on the seats. Every balcony and window in that stately range of buildings was full,

waving with the Bourbon flag, or wreathed with white.

The procession, at half-past five, entered the Park by Cumberland-gate. On its opening out into Piccadilly, the whole view was eminently striking. From the ascent near the Green Park the total pomp lay under the eye; and the combination of military splendor, stately movement, and countless multitude, gave a *coup-d'œil* of unrivalled richness, interest, and variety. A troop of gentlemen on horseback, with white cockades, led the way. The carriages followed, escorted by detachments of the Life Guards. A strong body of the 14th Light Dragoons and London Volunteer Horse, brought up the rear. The ceremonial moved slowly on, impeded by the eagerness of the multitude.

A little before six o'clock, the cavalcade arrived at Grillon's Hotel, Albemarle-street. As the carriage with the cream-colored horses approached, the people huzzaed, the ladies from the windows waving their handkerchiefs. His Majesty had hold of the prince's arm, who conducted him to

the principal parlour; on his arrival there, he found himself much overcome with fatigue; an arm-chair was brought, in which His Majesty seated himself, the Duke of York on his left, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and the Duchess d'Angouleme on his right, the Prince de Condé and the Duke de Bourbon facing him, with all his suite surrounding him. The Marquis of Hertford and the Earl of Cholmondeley, were behind the chair; the Austrian, Spanish, Russian, and Portuguese ambassadors, with all the ministers, were present. About 150 of the French noblesse were also assembled at the hotel, to greet the arrival of their sovereign, and an interesting scene took place. The Prince Regent then addressed His Majesty to the following effect:—

“Your Majesty will permit me to offer you my heartiest congratulations upon that great event which has always been amongst the warmest of my wishes, and which must eminently contribute to the happiness not only of Your Majesty's people, but to the repose and happiness of all other nations. I am sure I may add, that my

own sentiments and feelings are in unison with those of the whole British nation, and that the triumph and transport with which Your Majesty will be received in your own capital, can scarcely exceed the joy and satisfaction which Your Majesty's restoration to the throne of your ancestors has created in the capital of the British empire."

To which His Majesty replied :—"Your Royal Highness will accept my most sincere and grateful thanks for your Royal Highness's congratulations—for the invariable kindness with which I have been treated by your Royal Highness, and by every member of your illustrious House. It is to your Royal Highness's councils—to this great country, and to the constancy of its people, that I shall always ascribe, under Providence, the restoration of our House to the throne of our ancestors, and that state of affairs which promises to heal the wounds, to calm the passions, and to restore the peace, tranquillity, and prosperity of all nations."

The Prince Regent.—"Your Majesty indeed views my conduct with too partial an eye. I can claim no merit but the performance of a duty

to which inclination and every consideration prompted me. And surely Your Majesty will allow that the performance of it has been well rewarded by those events which call forth our present congratulations. May Your Majesty long reign in peace, happiness, and honor!"

The King of France.—"Your Royal Highness must allow me to add, that I have but feebly expressed all the grateful feelings of my heart, feelings which I shall retain to the last moment of my life, for the unabated kindness and the generous protection with which your Royal Highness and your noble nation have honored me and all the members of my House, and all those loyal men attached to it, during our residence in this great and happy country. May its greatness and happiness be eternal!"

His Majesty and the Prince Regent both spoke in French, and it was impossible for any one who heard them not to admire the feeling and expressive manner of the former, and the grace and animation of the latter.

His Majesty then, assisted by the Prince de Condé, and the Duke de Bourbon, taking the

riband of the Order of *Saint Esprit* from his own shoulder, and the star from his breast, invested the prince with it, declaring his happiness, that it should be upon his Royal Highness he should first have the honor of conferring that ancient order, upon his restoration.

His Royal Highness soon after took leave, and entered his carriage, amidst cries of “*God bless the Prince! Vivent les Bourbons! The Prince and Old England for ever!*”

On the 23rd of April, the King of France, the Duchess d'Angoulême, the Prince de Condé, and the Duke de Bourbon, left London to embark at Dover for France. An immense concourse of people had assembled at an early hour in Albemarle-street; and it being announced that the Duchess of Angoulême was coming to pay her respects to her uncle, every hand was at once moved, and every voice raised, to express the universal respect and admiration felt for the heroic and amiable daughter of Louis XVI. When the King got into his carriage, he was affectionately cheered by the people, who exclaimed, “*God bless Your Majesty!—a happy*

return to your native country!"—His Majesty appeared greatly affected by these marks of goodwill, and bowed repeatedly to the people. The Dukes of Kent and Sussex rode by the carriage, and the Prince de Condé and Duke de Bourbon followed.

The Prince Regent, accompanied by Lord Yarmouth and Colonel Bloomfield, left Carlton House at six in the morning to proceed to Dover, in order to be in readiness to receive His Majesty, and remain with him till his final departure.

The passage of the King of France through the county of Kent resembled a triumphal procession. The towns were decorated with white banners and flags; the bells were rung, guns fired, and every possible demonstration of respect and affection was exhibited on this novel and happy occasion.

On the 24th, the Royal Sovereign yacht sailed from Dover at one, with the King of France, in presence of an immense concourse of delighted spectators. The Prince Regent, with Lord Yarmouth and Colonel Bloomfield, having taken leave of the King, came ashore from the yacht, when he

was received with a royal salute from the whole line of troops along the pier and the shore.

The Royal Sovereign getting under weigh, passed the pier-head under a salute from all the batteries; and the Prince Regent, who had taken his station at the farthest point of the pier, cheered the vessel as she passed, in which he was accompanied by the vast concourse of spectators of all classes. It would be difficult to describe the feelings to which such a scene gave birth.

Its novelty and importance, the various circumstances attending the principal persons concerned in it, contributed to render it impressive and interesting in the highest degree; tears and acclamations were mingled, and every body appeared to be deeply affected. The yacht on reaching the roads was received by a royal salute from the men-of-war stationed there, one of which was the Jason, bearing the flag of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence. When the yacht reached the French coast, which she did in less than four hours, she was saluted by the Duke of Clarence's flag-ship, and all the other vessels of the fleet; on her approaching the harbour, a tremendous

roar of cannon was continued for two hours along the whole coast, which from Calais to Boulogne appeared in one entire blaze. The Duke of Clarence having now performed his high and gratifying commission, immediately sailed back for England.

On the 8th of June, the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia paid a visit of gratitude to this country, which they termed the saviour of Europe in the late important struggle. Every distinction which could do honor to the King of a great people, in his reception and entertainment of such illustrious guests, was lavished on the royal visitors. Among the many remarkable characters that visited England at this interesting period, the attention of the public was especially directed to the veteran Field-Marshal Blucher, who on his arrival at Carlton House, at six in the afternoon of the 8th of June, was received by Colonels Bloomfield and Congreve, who came out uncovered, and conducted him to the grand entrance. A great multitude of persons got into the court-yard and the hall, and the prince, after a few minutes' interview with Marshal

Blucher, in his private apartments, returned with the gallant veteran to the centre of the grand hall, where, surrounded by the people, he adorned his respected guest with a portrait of himself, set in diamonds, and attached to a blue riband. The Marshal knelt while the prince was bestowing this mark of honor, and on rising, kissed his Royal Highness's hand. The prince and the Field-Marshal bowed to the public, who replied with shouts of acclamation and delight.

The numerous and brilliant fêtes given to the illustrious strangers, would, if thoroughly described, themselves fill a volume, and cannot be detailed here. The illuminations in the metropolis for three successive nights, were of extraordinary splendor. On the 9th was one of the most brilliant courts ever held at Carlton House. Besides the two sovereigns, there were many foreign princes, and numbers of the most distinguished officers of the allied armies. On this occasion, the King of Prussia was invested with the insignia of the Order of the Garter. The Emperor Alexander had been invested with the same the preceding year in Germany.

The Prince Regent and his illustrious guests visited Oxford, where the Emperor, the King, and some of their attendants, one of whom was Blucher, received honorary degrees. Splendid banquets were given in their honor at Merchant Taylors' Hall, by the merchants and bankers, and at Guildhall, by the Lord Mayor and Corporation. Guildhall was fitted up with a degree of grandeur unparalleled on any preceding occasion, and the vast interior of that noble hall presented a scene of magnificence and taste combined, which will never be forgotten by those who had the fortune to witness it.

On the 20th, there was a grand review of regular troops and volunteers, in Hyde Park, which appeared to give the sovereigns and their suite great satisfaction. But the sight most calculated to impress them with a high idea of the greatness of Britain, and to shew the sovereign of the United Kingdom in his greatest glory, was a naval review at Portsmouth, of a fleet of eighty men of war. Two entire days were spent by the sovereigns in viewing the harbour, the immense naval establishments, and the stupendous machi-

nery of that port. The Emperor Alexander, with the Duchess of Oldenburg, his sister, the King of Prussia, and his two sons, embarked at Dover, on the 27th, to return to the continent, highly gratified with their three weeks' visit to this country.

After all these scenes of congratulation and triumph, it is most painful to have to recur to a renewal of those domestic dissensions between the Prince Regent and the Princess of Wales, which unhappily fill so large a space in the history of His late Majesty's life.

The Princess Charlotte of Wales having completed her eighteenth year on the 7th of January, received the congratulations of the nobility at Warwick House, and went afterwards to Connaught House, to spend the evening with the princess her mother. The interviews between the mother and daughter were, however, unfrequent, and their intercourse restricted, of which the Princess of Wales complained bitterly. On the arrival of the allied sovereigns, a new dilemma arose. The necessity of bringing out the young princess was now become absolute, especially as

it was generally reported that a marriage had been proposed between her and the Prince of Orange; a match which would have been highly agreeable to the nation, as the prince had been entirely educated in this country, and was almost considered as an Englishman. The arrival of the illustrious strangers being now certain, notice was given that the Queen intended to hold two drawing-rooms at Buckingham House, which created no small bustle in the fashionable world. It has been asserted that the Queen intimated to the Princess of Wales, that she would be allowed to be present at one only; and that the princess wrote to the Queen that she intended to be present at both. Her Majesty informed her by a letter dated the 23rd of May, that her son, the Prince Regent, had communicated to her, that he had "considered his own presence at the court, before the foreign sovereigns, not to be dispensed with; and that he desired it to be understood, for reasons of which he alone could be the judge, to be his fixed and unalterable determination not to meet the Princess of Wales upon any occasion, either public or private." The princess wrote a

remonstrance to Her Majesty, and requested her to inform the foreign princes of the reasons of her not appearing at court; and she sent a very spirited letter to his Royal Highness, in which she said, "I have been declared innocent, and I will not submit to be treated as guilty." The princess complained of the hardship of being excluded from seeing these illustrious strangers, and particularly the Prince of Orange, who had already announced himself to her as her son-in-law. She said that she would wave her right, in a case where she was not bound to assert it, in order to relieve the Queen from the embarrassment in which she was placed by his Royal Highness's resolution. The princess declared, however, that to justify herself in the eyes of the world, she should publish the correspondence. Accordingly it appeared in the public papers, and she sent copies of the letters to the Speaker of the House of Commons, which gave rise to some warm debates. One new fact was urged by Lord Castlereagh, namely, the existence of a document, signed by both the royal parties, and witnessed by the King, the Queen, and ministers,

where a lasting separation was mutually agreed on, where the cause appeared to be fully understood, and the wish common to both parties, and in which the bare possibility of a reunion was not even contemplated. A salary of £50,000 per annum was proposed for the princess, but it was reduced by her own desire to £35,000.

The differences between the Prince Regent and the Princess of Wales caused his Royal Highness some pain on account of the Princess Charlotte, who on several occasions took part with her mother in opposition to his wishes. This led to some very remarkable transactions. Determined that she should be more immediately under his own eye, in the year 1814, on the 12th of July, the Prince Regent visited Warwick House, and informed the Princess Charlotte, that he was come to dismiss all her household, and that she must immediately take up her residence in Carlton House, and from thence go to Cranbourn Lodge; and that five ladies, whom he named, amongst whom were the Countess Dowager of Rosslyn, and the Countess of Ilchester, were in the next room in readiness to wait upon her.

After some expostulation on the part of the Princess Charlotte, the prince remaining firm and resolute, she appeared to acquiesce in his determination; but pleading a wish to retire for a moment, to compose herself before she was introduced to the ladies, she was permitted to do so; and whilst the Prince was engaged in close conversation with Miss Knight, a lady of the Princess Charlotte's household, she, in an agony of despair, privately left Warwick House, and throwing herself into a hackney coach, in Cockspur-street, drove to Connaught House, the residence of her mother. Here she found that the Princess of Wales was gone to Blackheath. She despatched a servant to meet her; and threw herself on a bed, exclaiming, "I would rather earn my bread, and live upon five shillings a-week, than live the life I do." Before the Princess of Wales arrived, the Archbishop of Canterbury went to Connaught-place, to fetch the Princess Charlotte away; but Sicard, a faithful servant of the princess, refused to admit him.

As soon as the discovery of the flight of the Princess Charlotte was made known to the Prince

Regent, he sent for the ministers, and a council was held at the Foreign Office, and also at Carlton House. The Archbishop of Canterbury not succeeding in the object of his mission to Connaught House, the Duke of York was afterwards sent with a written message from the prince, containing her father's commands to bring her to Carlton House.

On the arrival of the Princess of Wales from Blackheath, she drove immediately to the Parliament House, and eagerly inquired for Mr. Whitbread, who was absent; she then inquired for Earl Grey, who was not in town; and, disappointed, she hastened to her own house in Connaught-place, and had an affecting interview with her daughter, with whom she continued till three o'clock in the morning. Soon after this time the Princess Charlotte was conveyed, by the Duke of York, to Carlton House; having been previously informed by Mr. Brougham (who had been sent for by the Princess of Wales), that by the laws of the land, she must obey her father's commands.

This affair of the Princess Charlotte excited

considerable anxiety in the public mind; and on the 19th of July, his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex put several questions to the ministers in the House of Lords, relative to the liberty which her Royal Highness enjoyed in Carlton House; but they were not answered. The Duke gave notice of a motion on the subject, for a subsequent day; but, on the 25th, when it was to be discussed, it having appeared that the Princess Charlotte had been seen on horseback in Windsor Great Park, and that more lenient measures were about to be observed towards her, the Duke declined pressing his motion.

Shortly after the singular escape of the Princess Charlotte from Warwick House, a report was in general circulation, that the Princess of Wales had determined to leave this country, and to retire to the continent, where her future abode was to be fixed. The truth of the report obtained confirmation, by a discussion which took place in the House of Commons, on the 30th of July; when it appeared that her Royal Highness had given notice to His Majesty's ministers, that she intended to visit the continent; and Lord Cas-

tlereagh, by whom this information was communicated, added, that he was persuaded the House, in voting the addition to the income of her Royal Highness, had no design of imprisoning her in this country, or of preventing her from residing wherever she preferred.

It was on the 25th of July that the Princess of Wales signified to Lord Liverpool, and to Mr. Whitbread, who had been her constant advocate, her intention of quitting England for a season, and making a tour on the continent. Lord Liverpool having, as she desired, communicated her wishes to the Prince Regent, his lordship informed her, on the 28th, that the prince had ordered him to acquaint her Royal Highness, that he could have no objection to her visiting her native country, and the Duke of Brunswick, her brother; and that he would never throw any obstacles in the way of her intentions respecting the place where she might wish to reside, whether in this country or on the continent. His lordship adds, by the prince's command, that his Royal Highness is not persuaded that considerations of the circumstances in which the princess is placed,

were an obstacle to the intended marriage of the Princess Charlotte to the Prince of Orange ; and, secondly, that the prince never interfered to prevent the allied sovereigns visiting her when they were in London.

Shortly after this, the Princess of Wales left England for the continent. She sailed from Worthing on the 9th of August, 1814, in the Jason frigate, and was landed at Hamburgh. She had ten ladies and gentlemen in her suite. Abroad, she travelled under the title of Countess of Cornwall. Nothing could tend more to tranquillise the royal family than this event ; but the prince vainly hoped from it an increase of harmony between him and his daughter. Whether there was any truth in the report, that it had been intimated to the Princess Charlotte, that, in case of her marriage, she would be restricted from all intercourse with her mother—or, as others said, that she would be required to reside wholly in Holland—and that this was the first ground of her objection to the match—cannot be positively affirmed ; but it is certain that she had seen, during the visit of the sovereigns, his Royal High-

ness Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, for whom she conceived a great regard, and to whom she was subsequently united.

Though, during the two last months, the metropolis had presented an almost uninterrupted succession of splendid fêtes, all referring to the late great events, it was resolved that there should be another of a more general description, in which all the public might partake; and it was determined to connect the festivity with the accession of the House of Brunswick, by choosing the 1st of August, as being the anniversary of the day on which that auspicious event had taken place one hundred years before. The three parks were judiciously chosen for the scene of this national jubilee, which, as the weather was beautiful, deservedly gave great satisfaction; but of which even an abridged description would occupy much more space than could be allotted to it here.

The treaty of Paris was signed on the 30th of May, 1814. The boundaries of France were guaranteed to her as in 1792, with some additions; the House of Orange was recognised in its sove-

reign capacity; the German states united in a federal league; Switzerland remained independent, but Italy was placed beneath the sceptre of Austria. The navigation of the Rhine was declared free. Great Britain restored to France part of her conquests; Malta was confirmed to England; France engaged to erect no fortresses in India, and to co-operate with England in the abolition of the slave-trade. This treaty produced the most lively satisfaction, and the concourse of spectators to witness the ceremony of proclaiming the peace by the heralds, on the 20th of June, was very great.

On the 7th of July, the inhabitants of the metropolis were gratified with another splendid pageant—the Prince Regent, with the two Houses of Parliament, the royal dukes; the foreign ambassadors, &c. &c. going in state to St. Paul's, to return thanks to Divine Providence, for the restoration of the blessings of peace to this country and to Europe. On the 21st of the same month, the Prince Regent gave a magnificent fête at Carlton House, to the Duke of Wellington.

Amidst the general satisfaction of the people

with the peace, there were persons who blamed many of the particulars relative to other countries, and above all, as far as England was concerned, the fate of Norway.

At the time when Denmark was at war with England, it had been resolved, in order to induce Sweden to join the confederacy against France, the kingdom of Norway should be taken from Denmark, and annexed to the former power, to which the quiet possession of it was guaranteed by England and Russia. The Norwegians, incensed at being thus made subject to the Swedes, whom they detested, resisted, and chose a King of their own, resolving to be independent. To compel their submission to the Crown Prince of Sweden, who entered Norway with an army, an English squadron was employed to enforce a rigorous blockade of the whole coast. The Norwegians were in the end obliged to submit, but on very honorable terms; the two crowns of Sweden and Norway were indeed placed on the same head, but Norway retains its own constitution, and its own national representation, or diet.

During the course of this session of Parliament,

the commander-in-chief of the British armies in the Peninsula took his seat in the House of Lords, under the title of the Duke of Wellington. A grant of £10,000 a-year, to be at any time commuted for £300,000, and a sum of £100,000 in addition, were immediately voted to him, with the thanks of both Houses.

The triumphant speech of the regent at the close of this session was deeply interesting. He lamented the continuance of His Majesty's indisposition; he had, he said, adhered to the line of policy adopted by the King, and had the satisfaction of beholding the full accomplishment of all the objects for which the war was undertaken, or continued, and the final deliverance of Europe from the most oppressive tyranny.

Before the close of this eventful year, a treaty was signed with America, and both hemispheres were once more united in the bonds of peace. This epoch in the annals of Great Britain, concludes the fifth year of the regency; and how enviable among the nations must have been the station of that prince, who, having wielded with restricted powers the energies of this great empire

for so short a period, had been enabled to quell domestic faction, to disappoint the malignity of political prophecy, to exalt his personal character in the eyes of his people, to raise a spirit in Europe which crushed the hydra of usurping power—directed by the most insatiable ambition, and the most extraordinary talent—to enforce justice, to restore right, to extend mercy, and, finally, to establish universal peace!

Thus the year 1814 terminated with the prospect of a durable peace to this country, and of a general settlement of the affairs of the continent, which, if not wholly consonant to the feelings and wishes of the friends to the independence of nations, seemed to promise considerable improvement in the system of European politics; to regulate which, a congress of almost all the sovereigns, and of the most eminent statesmen of Europe, was actually sitting at Vienna; when universal astonishment was excited by the unlooked for, and almost incredible news, that Napoleon had succeeded in leaving Elba unobstructed by the English squadron; that he had landed without opposition in France, and was pursuing his

triumphant march to Paris, where he arrived on the 20th of March, to commence his short, but fatal reign of a hundred days. The events of that extraordinary period, in which history makes even romance seem tame, are so deeply impressed on the hearts of all those, whose favored lot made them contemporaries of that proudest period of Britain's glory, that in the room of that detail, for which this is not the place, a bare allusion to them will suffice.

Amidst the afflicting scene that France displayed, in the fickleness of part of the people, and in the treachery and selfishness of thousands who had but lately sworn allegiance to their mild and lawful sovereign, it is refreshing to the heart to turn to the heroic daughter of Louis XVI. the worthy descendant of a long line of kings. "The Duchess of Angoulême," says an able writer, "whose austerity might have become the inmate of a cloister, and whose views seemed fixed upon a heavenly throne, gave another bright example of the native energy and innate courage which warms the breast of woman, when inspired by love and duty to the exercise of virtues unlooked

for in her sex, but not incompatible with feminine grace and gentleness. While the princes of her family were pursuing half measures—in one breath threatening the unresisted enemy, and wooing their ill-disposed followers—this exalted lady assembled the officers of the royal army at Bordeaux, addressed them in words of fire, and set them an example of devotedness, enough to have infused a soul into a host of statues bearing the forms of men. But when she found her eloquence disregarded, and her injunctions disobeyed, she cast upon them a look of virtuous indignation; threw to the ground before them the emblem of their treachery, the white cockade, which she had given them as a pledge of loyalty; and, with the voice and spirit of her ancestors, exclaimed, ‘I see your fears—you are cowards—I absolve you from the oaths you have taken; then, turning her horse, she rode away almost alone, and sought protection beneath the flag of England.’”

Meantime the allied sovereigns, still happily assembled in Congress at Vienna, issued a joint declaration, proclaiming Napoleon as out of the pale of the law of nations, and concluded a treaty

by which Russia, England, Austria, and Prussia engaged to bring into the field each 150,000 men, and never to lay down their arms except by common concurrence, nor to abandon the contest till the object should have been attained. Fortunately the armies of the great powers, that were still on their march homewards, after the conclusion of peace the year before, were still within reach, and orders were immediately sent for them to turn back, and proceed by forced marches to the frontiers of France. Even now that almost every circumstance of that crisis is known in its minutest detail, the mind is overpowered by the contemplation of the great events which followed each other in such rapid succession in the space of a few short months—the arrival and triumphant march of Napoleon, the flight of the royal family, the prompt decision of the allies, the concentration of the hostile armies in Belgium, the tremendous conflict of Waterloo, and its consequences.

In all the accounts hitherto published of this campaign, it has been almost uniformly asserted that the Duke of Wellington was entirely taken by surprise, and that he was at a ball at the

Duchess of Richmond's, when the news of the advance of the French was first brought to him: this false assertion has lately been refuted, by shewing that the duke had resolved on attending that ball, with his officers, lest any alarm should be caused by his absence; but that he had ordered his officers to retire successively, as silently as possible, and to repair to their several destinations. To this another fact may be here added, from the highest authority. The Duke of Wellington had been at Blucher's head-quarters before the battle of Ligny; he pointed out to Blucher the danger of his position, exposed, as it appeared to him to be, to batteries which the enemy, he conceived, had placed at a certain spot. After leaving Blucher, his grace said to an officer of high rank, while on his way to Brussels, "Those fellows I have just left are likely to get a severe thrashing, if they remain where they are."

Though Napoleon and his panegyrists have taken much pains to prove, that if he was conquered, he had done every thing to deserve victory; and that if Wellington was victorious,

he had committed every possible fault to merit defeat; the truth is, that he never would have commenced the battle, had he not been morally certain of gaining it. The superiority of numbers, of artillery, perhaps even of position, was on his side. He commanded an army of one nation, led by generals accustomed to victory under his guidance, with the consciousness of having gained a great victory over the veteran Blucher but just before. Napoleon, in fact, began the battle with the utmost confidence, eager to snatch the laurels from the brows of one whom he had long wished to meet face to face, and to triumph over him, whose talents had baffled his ablest generals. He came to measure swords with Wellington. What efforts, surpassed only by those which rendered them unavailing, were made to insure success! What torrents of blood were spilt to add this most glorious triumph to the long catalogue of his trophies! How changed in a few short hours was his situation! In the morning, towering in the pride of his hope; in the evening, he who had twice before clandestinely eloped from his army, the deserter of Egypt and Smorgonie, for the

third time abandoned his brave men, who had left all for him, and on the third day after the battle, reached Paris, to tell his associates in perfidy, that he had lost his army, his honor, his fame, and his crown, and out of the mighty wreck had saved—himself!

On the 3rd of July, only fifteen days after the battle, Paris capitulated to the troops of Great Britain and Prussia; and on the 8th, Louis XVIII. again made his entry into his capital, amidst the deceitful, but no longer deceiving, welcomes of an overawed and dissatisfied people. But where again was *he* who had been the cause of all these scenes? After skulking a few days about the coast, waiting for the chance of events, and failing to secure an escape to America, he adopted the bold resolution of throwing himself on the mercy of England, and of suing for his life and liberty, to the people whom he had so often denounced as the enemies of the human race, and threatened with conquest and extermination. It is probable that he never expected that his appeal to the magnanimity of the Prince Regent, would be attended to; but it served, in the sequel, as a

theme of declamation for himself and his adherents, and of which due advantage was taken by them. That no pledge was broken by conveying him to St. Helena, is indisputable, because none was given. Exile to an island which all previous accounts had represented in a favorable light, with a numerous suite of attendants, and with every gratification that could be procured, except the pursuits of ambition, seems to be no very hard lot for one who had so wantonly broken the peace of the world; yet he and his adherents had art enough to induce many persons to believe that the English government had acted most unjustifiably, in sending him to such a fatal climate as it was now represented to be, and that he was treated in his unmerited exile with great and uncalled for rigour. With respect to the injustice of sending him to St. Helena, the writer of this work has had in his hands a document, purporting to be a treaty between Great Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, concluded before the battle of Waterloo, by which it was stipulated that if, in the course of the war, Napoleon should be captured, he should be considered as the

prisoner of the four allied powers, and not of the one by whose troops he might be taken; that he should not be either confined in prison, or suffered to reside in the European, or continental dominions of either of the four powers, but be sent to St. Helena, and there remain, with only such restrictions as should be judged necessary to prevent his escaping.

At the beginning of this year, the Prince Regent, in commemoration of the auspicious termination (as it was then supposed) of the long and arduous contests in which the empire had been engaged, was pleased to make an entirely new statute for the Order of the Bath.

At the very moment of the panic in France, created by Napoleon's march to Paris, the spirit of insurrection burst out in acts of riot and destruction in the city of London. The cause of these disturbances was, that never-failing source of discord, the Corn Bill. Much mischief was committed during the tumult, and some lives were afterwards sacrificed to justice: a fall in the prices of corn, and a plentiful harvest, however, pacified the public mind.

On the 12th of August this year, the Prince Regent's birthday was, for the first time, celebrated in the same manner, and with similar circumstances of pomp and distinction, as that of the King. On the 29th of the same month, the Duke of Cumberland, who had been previously married at Berlin to the Princess of Salms, was again married at Carlton House, according to the rites of the English Church. The Prince Regent, in a message of the 27th of June, had announced this marriage, and called on Parliament to make a suitable provision for their Royal Highnesses. Lord Liverpool stated the intended provision to be an addition of £6000 a year to the duke's income, and a jointure to the same amount for the duchess. It appeared that the match was disapproved by the Queen, though the princess was her niece, and that she was not received at court. This led to some animated debates in the Commons, which ended in the proposed addition being refused by a majority of one. The ground of the opposition was, that if the Queen disapproved of the marriage, there must be some just objection to it.

Notwithstanding the real distress that prevailed, in consequence of the immense exertions that had been made for a quarter of a century, the gratitude of the nation was manifested in the most splendid manner by the subscription made in favor of the brave men wounded in the late campaign, and of the widows and orphans of the slain. The whole sum, called the Waterloo Fund, amounted in the end to above half-a-million of money.

Napoleon Buonaparte, with a numerous suite, arrived off Torbay on the 24th of July, on board the Bellerophon, Captain Maitland, to whom he had surrendered; in the beginning of August, he was removed to the Northumberland, to be conveyed to St. Helena.

During the visit of the Emperors of Austria and Russia, and the King of Prussia, at Paris, in 1815, the Emperor Alexander, at the suggestion, as it seems, of a female enthusiast, well known as the Baroness de Krudener, conceived a plan of an association between the Christian princes, by which they should bind themselves to govern their subjects with justice and equity. This con-

vention, known by the name of the Holy Alliance, which, however, was not given to it by its authors, was acceded to by most of the other sovereigns of Europe. The Prince Regent, on being asked to join in it, wrote to each of the three sovereigns the following letter:—

“ Carlton House, Oct. 6, 1815.

“ MY DEAR BROTHER AND COUSIN,

“ I have had the honor to receive Your Majesty's letter, together with the copy of the treaty between Your Majesty and your high allies, signed at Paris on the 26th of September. As the forms of the British Constitution, which I am called upon to maintain, in the name and in the place of the King, my father, prevent me from acceding to the treaty in the form in which it is laid before me, I choose this way to convey to the august sovereigns who have signed it, my entire concurrence in the principles which they have expressed, and in the declaration which they have made, that they will take the divine precepts of the Christian religion as the unalterable rule of their conduct, in all their social and political con-

nections, and confirm the union which should always exist between all Christian nations. It will be ever my serious endeavour to guide my conduct, in the situation in which Divine Providence has placed me, according to these holy principles, and to co-operate with my high allies in all measures which are calculated to contribute to the peace and welfare of mankind.

"I remain, with the most unalterable feelings of friendship and regard, my dear brother and cousin,

"Your Majesty's brother and cousin,

(Signed)

"GEORGE, P. R."

It is perhaps a subject of congratulation, that the forms of our constitution did not admit of a compliance with the request of the three sovereigns, as the prince might possibly have acceded to it, which would have placed him in a situation of some embarrassment at a subsequent period, when measures were adopted by the parties to this alliance, which were wholly adverse to the

sentiments of His Majesty, and to the principles of the English government.

It is foreign to the purpose of this work to relate the events that occurred in France, unless they have some particular bearing on the subject. Such is the decision of the allied powers to strip the Museum of the Louvre, that grand repository of the spoils of plundered nations, of its ill-gotten treasures, and to restore them to their rightful owners. This magnificent collection had been left untouched the preceding year, from a laudable wish in the allies to do nothing that might make the restored family unpopular; but as their moderation had been thrown away, Marshal Blucher resolved to take back all the spoils from the Prussian dominions; the Dutch and the Austrians claimed their share, and the Duke of Wellington thought it incumbent on him to second them, and also to enforce the restoration of the works of art belonging to the Pope, and the other Italian sovereigns. The Prince Regent gave, on this occasion, a remarkable and most honorable proof of disinterestedness and generosity. In consequence of the heavy expense that

would attend the removal of the celebrated statues, the Apollo Belvidere, &c. and the carriage to Rome, the Pope offered them to the Prince Regent, who, in reply, said that however gratifying it would be to him to possess some of these inestimable productions, he could not take advantage of the necessity of the owners, and would, therefore, give orders for the payment of all the charges incidental to their conveyance to Italy. The deprivation of these treasures was, perhaps, the most sensible mortification that French vanity received, and was almost more felt than the payment of an indemnity of seven hundred millions of francs to the allies, and the military occupation of some of their chief fortresses by the allied troops for five years.

But the joy of the nation over its warlike renown was turned into distress and discontent, by the commercial difficulties, and the depression in the value of agricultural property, consequent on the peace.

The session of 1816 was opened by commission; the speech of the Prince Regent was one of triumph for the events of the last year, and

concluded by expressing the determination of his Royal Highness to maintain the high character which the country had acquired with the world; and a hope that union amongst the different classes of the people, which had secured the peace of Europe, would continue to promote the prosperity of the kingdom. Among the first acts of this Parliament was an address to the regent, conveying the entire approbation of the legislature to the measures of the executive authority in the several treaties that had secured the peace. The principles of justice and moderation on which the councils of his Royal Highness had been conducted, were greeted with a strong expression of the satisfaction of both Houses.

The Prince Regent, after the rupture of the intended marriage with the Prince of Orange, did not long oppose his daughter's union with the Prince of Saxe-Coburg. On the 14th of March a message was sent to the House of Commons, communicating the proposed alliance. This message was received with great satisfaction by both Houses, and the following provision was made for the young couple. In the first place, a grant

of £60,000 for the outfit of the royal pair; an annual income of £60,000, the whole of which was to be continued to the princess, should she survive the prince; whilst £50,000 should be continued to him, in the event of his being the survivor. During their joint lives, £10,000 out of the £60,000 was to be annually paid to the princess as her privy purse, and to be placed beyond the control of her husband.

On the 21st of February, 1816, the Prince of Saxe-Coburg landed at Dover, and on the following day he proceeded to Brighton, where the Queen and the Princesses Elizabeth and Mary, with the Princess Charlotte, were on a visit to the Prince Regent, at the Pavilion. The reception was private and cordial; the Prince Regent threw off all the restraint of royal etiquette, and enjoyed the happiness of parental feelings on the marriage of a daughter. The whole party continued together till the 5th of March, when the Queen and the Princesses Elizabeth and Mary left the Pavilion for Windsor, in order to superintend the decorations and arrangements necessary for the wedding. The Prince Regent thought

the marriage ought not to be delayed, and he resolved that it should be celebrated as early as possible; but, unfortunately, a few days after the Queen had left the Pavilion to expedite the ceremonies, the Prince of Saxe-Coburg was taken very ill, and was confined to his room for about five weeks, to the middle of April.

On the 26th of April, the birthday of the Princess Mary, the Queen gave a splendid fête at Frogmore, and the Prince Regent was publicly received by his daughter and his future son-in-law before the assembled nobility and gentry. That night the Prince Regent returned to London; and on the 29th of April the whole party separated, to make arrangements for the immediate marriage. The Princess Charlotte repaired to Carlton House; Prince Leopold to the apartments of the Duke of Clarence, at St. James's; and the Queen and the Princesses to Buckingham Palace. The next day a drawing-room was held, in order to give Prince Leopold a public and official reception. The bridal dresses were privately exhibited, and the different members of the family interchanged splendid bridal presents.

At length the 2nd of May arrived. The concourse of people at the west end of the town was almost unprecedented. At four o'clock the Princess Charlotte left Carlton House to dine with the Queen at Buckingham Palace; but so impossible was it to penetrate through the crowd in Pall Mall, that the coachman was obliged to return, and drive through the park. At half-past seven the whole of the royal party left Buckingham Palace for Carlton House, where they were conducted to the royal closet, together with Prince Leopold, and the Duke and Duchess of Orleans. When every thing was ready, the party left the royal closet, and proceeded in state to the great crimson room, which had been splendidly fitted up, with that taste and knowledge of effect in decorations, in which the prince was known to excel all men. His Royal Highness received the Queen at the door of the crimson room, and conducted her to the chair of state at the right hand side of the altar. The lord chamberlain then conducted Prince Leopold to the altar, and afterwards handed the Princess Charlotte to the front of it, who was supported on the

other side by the Duke of Clarence. After the Archbishop of Canterbury had concluded the ceremony, the Princess Charlotte, with girlish ardor, and the warmth of natural feeling, embraced her royal parent; and, as soon as this impulse of affection had subsided, she went and (stooping ceremoniously) kissed the Queen's hand with respectful gravity. Prince Leopold and his bride immediately set off for Oatlands, whilst the rest of the royal party left the crimson room for the royal closet, from which they shortly after proceeded to the great council chamber, where they received the usual congratulations of the nobility.

On that day fortnight the Queen gave her grand drawing-room at Buckingham House, and which, owing to the immense assemblage, lasted from twelve to six o'clock in the afternoon. Notwithstanding the relief afforded by opening additional rooms, the crowd was great beyond precedent, and the pressure was most severely felt by the company. No person now living can remember so crowded a drawing-room.

Whether the old King were sufficiently sensi-

ble to appreciate this marriage, or to sympathize with the joy of the family, may be a matter of doubt; but about this time the Princess Elizabeth, in a private letter to Lady Suffolk, her former governess, speaking of her venerable father, says, "If any thing can make us more easy under the calamity which it hath pleased heaven to inflict upon us, it is the apparent happiness that my revered father seems to feel; he considers himself no longer an inhabitant of this world, and often, when he has played one of his favorite tunes, observes, that he was very fond of it when he was in the world. He speaks of the Queen and all his family, and hopes that they are doing well now, for he loved them very much when he was with them."

About the time of this marriage of the Princess Charlotte, so improved was His Majesty in health, that his personal supervisors were reduced from six to two; his pages attended upon him as in former times, and he dressed every day for dinner, with his stars and orders, as in earlier days; but yet, this marriage of his granddaughter seems to have created in his mind an opposite train of delu

sive ideas. He was continually talking of celebrating his own death, for he used to say, "I must have a new suit of clothes, and I will have them black, in memory of George III."

Two months after the marriage of the Princess Charlotte, the long attachment of the Duke of Gloucester to his cousin, Princess Mary, terminated in a matrimonial union, with the direct approbation of the Prince Regent.

This may probably be considered as in many respects the happiest period in the life of His late Majesty. The Princess of Wales was at a distance, and the political safety of the country had been achieved almost miraculously; he was virtually the reigning sovereign of Great Britain; his love of splendor was profusely gratified by the ministry; and, lastly, his daughter was married to one in whom centered her private affections, and every source of public convenience and political advantages. Alas! how soon were these most brilliant prospects to fade!

The Prince Regent even now began to indulge in those habits of seclusion, which in the latter years of his life, so continually withdrew him

from the eye of the people: his visits, except to the Marquises of Hertford and Conyngham, were few and far between; and his courts and public parties were very infrequent. His principal occupations were in the superintendence of the improvements and alterations of his different places of residence. The expenditure upon the interior of Carlton House was very great. On one occasion, after a room had been superbly decorated, a principal device being that of large golden eagles in each corner, and which produced a very superb effect, Sir Edmund Nagle suggested (what, indeed, was sufficiently obvious) that the eagle was the ornament used so profusely by the Emperor Napoleon in all his decorations, both military and civil. This was conclusive: the eagles were removed, and very large gilt shells were substituted.

The great political event of this year of the regency was the bombardment of Algiers. The Dey rejected the demand of the Regent of England, that, for the future, captives in battle should not be condemned to slavery. An attack was made on a settlement at Bona, on the coast of

Algiers, which is under the protection of the British flag. It is uncertain whether the wanton outrages committed in this attack were sanctioned by the Dey, or were only the effect of national antipathy in an unbridled and licentious soldiery; however, to enforce his demand, and to punish this insult, the regent appointed Lord Exmouth to the command of a fleet of ten sail, with many smaller vessels, for the express purpose of forcing the Algerines to aid in the common cause of humanity, for the abolition of slavery.

In the attack upon Algiers, Lord Exmouth was ably seconded by a Dutch squadron, under Admiral Van der Capellen. The Algerines fought with great steadiness and courage, and the loss sustained by the English was very great; but the Dey was obliged to make his submission, to save his city from total destruction. The demands of the Prince Regent were, in consequence, complied with, the stipulated conditions agreed to, and the admiral sailed from Algiers on the 3rd of September, with the cheering conviction that he had not left behind him one Christian prisoner.

This is, perhaps, the only great battle, or, at

all events, one of the few on record, undertaken from the purest motives of humanity—to obtain a general good by a partial evil. It is illustrative of the character of the regent, as well as of the great nation he governed.

In the month of July, this year, the prince lost the friend of his youth, the companion of his pleasures, and his attached and confidential servant, R. B. Sheridan, who died in poverty, harassed by creditors, and neglected by the majority of his great friends, in the sixty-fifth year of his age—a memorable and affecting proof of the insufficiency of splendid talents, patriotic intentions, and amiable and affectionate conduct in the relations of domestic life, to insure happiness and respect, if unaccompanied by steadiness of conduct, and rectitude of principle. “The moral of his tale,” as Mr. Moore truly observes, “is ‘*Nullum numen abest si sit prudentia.*’”

The Prince Regent had at different periods been the object of great and almost general unpopularity. At this time great discontents prevailed. It had become evident, that plenty and prosperity are not always the concomitants

of peace; and the excitement, under which immense sums were lavished away, having subsided, the nation, in its sober judgment, began to feel and to repent its extravagance; the period of suffering commenced.

At the opening of the session of Parliament, 1817, the Regent, in his speech from the throne, alluded to the discontents, and to their cause, which he lamented was of a nature not to admit of an immediate remedy. He praised the fortitude of the people in the trials they endured; expressed his persuasion, that the great sources of national prosperity continued essentially unimpaired; and his confident expectation that the native energy of the country would, at no distant period, surmount all the difficulties in which it was involved.

A distressing comment on the speech immediately followed its delivery. The prince, on his return from the House, through the park, was fired at from among the crowd, by some traitor, with an air-gun, the bullets of which broke the windows of the carriage. This attempt upon his life, and the marked demonstrations of discontent

and anger with which he was received by the populace, being immediately communicated to both Houses, measures founded on the communication were instantly adopted. The act for the security of His Majesty's person, passed in 1795, was extended to the person of the Prince Regent, while the various laws with regard to tumultuous meetings, debating societies, and the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, were consolidated into a new form, to strengthen the hands of ministers.

In the above year, a gentleman, who, residing near Windsor, frequently hunted with His Majesty's stag-hounds, and was consequently known, by sight at least, to the King, happened to be in the park, near the state-coach, and seized on the spot, a miscreant who had raised his arm against his sovereign. This timely interposition saved His Majesty from imminent danger, and it was thought right that some reward should be bestowed on him for this service. Accordingly, he was desired to call on Mr. Secretary Dundas, and to state in what manner government could acknowledge the service he had rendered. To this he

pleasantly replied, "Make me a Scotchman, and then I can ask for whatever I like." The King, on hearing this anecdote, was highly diverted at the joke. A place with a salary of £1500 a year was given to him.

Societies of the most mischievous tendency had been formed in the metropolis, with branches all over the country, and government judged it necessary to appoint a secret committee to investigate the subject. This committee, whose report caused great alarm, was extremely unpopular, and many of the most respectable members attacked it with great severity. The Habeas Corpus Act was suspended for a season, and other measures adopted in this dangerous crisis.

This year, the celebration of the regent's birth was altered from the 12th of August, the natal day, to the 23rd of April, the anniversary of St. George.

The respect that the prince always manifested towards his tutors has been already noticed. About the end of June this year, his Royal Highness paid a visit to Dr. Cyril Jackson, at his residence in Sussex. The prince conversed with him in the kindest manner, and expressed much

concern at seeing him in so enfeebled a state. The venerable dean was much gratified by the attention of his royal pupil, and at parting gave him his thanks and blessing.

On Monday, the 8th of September, 1817, the Prince Regent commenced his aquatic excursions from Brighton, and remained at sea ten hours. On Wednesday, accompanied by Admirals Campbell and Nagle, Lord William Gordon, Sir William Keppel, the Honorable Captain Paget, and Captain Horace Seymour, his Royal Highness embarked on board the Royal George yacht, under salutes from the Tyber, Inconstant, Rosario, Grecian, Viper, and Hound: and at half-past one the ships went through all the manœuvres of an engagement. At night the vessels stood out to sea, and the next morning were off Dieppe; where, communication being had, the yacht and squadron crossed the channel again, and reached Brighton on Saturday, when the prince landed. On disembarking, the prince presented Captain Paget with a most elegant snuff-box, in testimony of his high gratification and esteem. So great, indeed, was the pleasure that his Royal Highness

felt, that among other gracious intimations of attachment to the naval service, he said, that if he should land at any other place than Brighton, he would wear the full-dress uniform of an admiral, and which he should continue to wear at his levees, alternately with the military dress.

It was on this occasion, that the present Marquis of Hertford, then Earl of Yarmouth, laid a wager with Sir Edward Nagle, that the prince would not sleep one night at sea. By way of punishing him, the prince remained out three or four nights. The terms were £100 for every night. Lord Yarmouth complained that he had not been fairly dealt with, and that the prince ought not to have been made acquainted with the bet.

The agitated state of the country, after the attack on the Prince Regent, at the opening of Parliament, had a very sensible effect on the health of Her Majesty the Queen. On the 22nd of April, she had been interesting herself in the preparations for the drawing-room of the ensuing (St. George's) day; when, during the night, she had an attack of too decided a character to be

mistaken, though the bulletin of next day passed it off merely as a cold. On the 3rd of November following, Her Majesty left Windsor Castle for Bath, in the forlorn hope, if not of a recovery of health, at least of an alleviation of pain. But an event was at hand, that was to give Her Majesty a severer shock.

On the 6th of November, the death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales blasted the hopes of the nation. After a labour lingering rather than severe, her Royal Highness was delivered of a male child—still-born. At this period she was as well as usual in such cases; but a sudden alteration of the system induced great difficulty of breathing, restlessness, and exhaustion; and she expired about half-past two in the morning.

A despatch from Lord Sidmouth announced to Her Majesty, at four o'clock on the 6th, the first part of the mournful intelligence, with the consolation, however, that her Royal Highness was doing well. The shock was extremely severe, but at six Her Majesty sat down to dinner, with her usual company of fourteen persons. During the dinner she was surprised at General Taylor's

suddenly leaving the room, upon a message being whispered to him by a servant. Presently the Countess of Ilchester was called from the table, in the same abrupt manner, and the truth struck the Queen's mind, and suddenly exclaiming, "I know what it is," she fell into a fit.

The prince, who had been passing a few days at Sudbourn Hall, in Suffolk, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford, was sent for to town on the instant that the illness of the princess commenced. It has been stated that the accouchement was not expected so early by about ten days, long before which time the prince would have been in London, which it is proper to state, because many persons expressed surprise that he should be so far distant at such a moment. On his way to town he met two messengers with despatches, which however only announced the slow progress of the labour, and the apparent absence of danger; a third messenger missed him; and it was not till his arrival at Carlton House, at half-past four o'clock on Thursday morning, that he heard from the Duke of York and Earl Bathurst the fatal intelligence, which threw him into a par-

oxysm that rendered it necessary to bleed him twice, besides cupping.

Her Majesty and her whole party left Bath on Saturday morning, and on the next day, the Prince Regent, in a very private manner, repaired to her at Windsor Castle, where a most melancholy day was spent by the royal family.

All accounts agreed at the time in speaking in the highest terms of the behaviour of Prince Leopold on this melancholy occasion. His loss was indeed the most severe, and if he felt it like a man, he bore it like a Christian. The Prince Regent, on receiving the melancholy news from the Duke of York and Lord Bathurst, most considerately sent them to his son-in-law, to persuade him to accept an asylum in Carlton House, out of the way of the heart-breaking preparations for the funeral of his illustrious consort; but no persuasions could induce the prince to leave the spot till the remains of his beloved princess were removed to their last resting-place.

Mr. Dyke, a king's messenger, was despatched with this lamentable intelligence to the Princess of Wales, in Italy; and the unexpected news

occasioned her the most bitter affliction. She raised a cenotaph to her memory in her garden at Pesaro; and from this period her desire to visit England, and weep over the grave of her child, became incessant.

The distress of the Prince Regent, and of the widowed husband, could be equalled only by the poignant grief that overwhelmed the whole nation: never, perhaps, did the death of an individual combine in itself so many causes calculated to excite affliction in a whole country, and never was a royal death more generally and more sincerely deplored.

Two proclamations closed this year of the Prince Regent's public life; one prohibiting the emigration of British officers, with the purpose of serving the states of South America against the King of Spain; and the other to repress, by threats of punishment, and by painting its enormity, the too common offence of frame-breaking, and the destruction of machinery used in manufactures.

On the 7th of April, 1818, her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth was married to the here-

ditary Prince of Hesse-Homberg, at the Queen's Palace. This prince had greatly distinguished himself in the late war, and commanded the Austrian army, to which the city of Lyons surrendered, in 1815. It was a singular circumstance, that the magistrates of Lyons, expecting that Napoleon would pay them a visit, had got ready some magnificent gold keys, to be presented to him on a crimson cushion, as an emblem of the submission of the city. Napoleon, however, never went to Lyons, and the keys and cushion were presented to the Prince of Hesse-Homberg.

The death of the Princess Charlotte having extinguished the hopes of a continuance of the succession to the throne in the right line, it was judged advisable that some of the younger sons of George III. should enter into the marriage state; and, accordingly, the Dukes of Clarence, Kent, and Cambridge, followed the example of the Princess Elizabeth. The Duke of Clarence married the Princess Adelaide Amelia, of Saxe-Meiningen; the Duke of Kent, Princess Victoria Maria Louisa, sister to Prince Leopold, of Saxe-

Coburg, and consort of the late Prince of Leiningen; and the Duke of Cambridge married the Princess Augusta Wilhelmina, of Hesse. On this occasion, each of the three royal dukes received from Parliament an addition of £6000 a-year to his income, which was to be continued to his consort, as her jointure, in case of her becoming a widow. Another change, but of a melancholy nature, soon occurred in the royal family, by the death of the virtuous Queen Charlotte, on the 17th of November. Of this most excellent princess, exemplary in all the relations of public and private life, as a queen, a wife, a mother, and a friend, it is unnecessary to draw her character in this place; for it is impressed on the hearts of her subjects in brighter colours than any language can impart; and those who appreciate the influence of the sovereign on the minds of the nation, need form no higher wish, than that the life, the character, and the court of all future Queens of England may resemble the life, character, and court of Queen Charlotte.

The Duke of York succeeded the Queen as guardian of the King's person; the establishment

at Windsor was reduced, and some new commissioners added.

As order appeared to be now restored in France, it was resolved, at a congress held at Aix-la-Chapelle, in November, to withdraw the allied troops from that country.

The foreign policy of the Prince Regent had obtained the loudest approbation, both abroad and at home. It was distinguished by the purest principles of international justice. No ambitious aspirations after aggrandisement ; no sordid views of self-interest ; but an absolute abandonment of private motives, and a sacrifice of personal benefit, to the peace of Europe and the general good. None but the immediate sufferers in the great political changes now in progress, had breathed a murmur against the purity and justice of the English cabinet. But in the administration of domestic affairs, the case was widely different. Those factious spirits, whose efforts for disturbance had been foiled by the splendor of events at the close of the war, eagerly availed themselves of the discontent and difficulty which naturally followed the establishment of peace.

The year 1819 was, in consequence, unhappily distinguished by serious disturbances in Lancashire, and other parts of the kingdom, which led to distressing scenes at Manchester, where Mr. Hunt, long designated as the oracle of the party called the Radicals, having collected an immense assemblage of persons, was arrested by a police officer, and the people dispersed by the Yeomanry Cavalry. Blood was unhappily shed, and this circumstance gave rise to loud and general expressions of indignation at what the populace called the Massacre of Petersfield.

Similar assemblies continued to meet in different parts of the kingdom, at which the most inflammatory language was used; and at Paisley, in particular, were scenes of most outrageous riot and destruction, which made the interference of the military absolutely necessary. Long debates on these affairs took place in Parliament, and several resolutions were passed, but not without vehement opposition, to strengthen the arm of government. The evil, however, increased, and in the spring of the ensuing year, new disturbances arose.

In May, this year, an addition was made to the royal family, by the birth of Prince George, son of the Duke of Cumberland, and of the Princess Victoria Alexandrina, daughter of the Duke of Kent.

This year, the last of the regency, ended as it began, with present discontent and gloomy anticipations; yet at the beginning of the year 1820 the country was tranquil. The agricultural interests were still depressed, but the cultivators of the soil are always least impatient under distress and disappointment. Commerce revived in some degree, and the determined measures of the ministry subdued the idle and the daring, and encouraged the peaceful and industrious.

On the 23rd of January, the Prince Regent had the misfortune to lose his brother, the Duke of Kent, who died of an inflammation on the lungs, from a neglected cold, arising from wet feet. He was considered as amiable in private life, from which he rarely emerged. Almost his last act was reading an affectionate letter from the Prince Regent, who was greatly attached to him.

Immediately after this shock, the royal family

sustained another in the death of the old King, on Saturday, 29th January. The aged monarch retained his characteristic activity till within a few days of his death. His sufferings were not protracted, nor was the approach of death embittered by pain. He expired without a struggle, and, happily for him, he was not, as sometimes happens to patients labouring under similar disorders, visited by a ray of returning reason, which would but have served to make him conscious of the desolation of his last moments.

The royal body was committed to the family vault in St. George's Chapel, at Windsor, on the 16th of February, amidst a concourse of the great and noble of the land; but illness, and the advice of his physicians, prevented the greatest and the noblest, from paying the last tribute to his father. The Duke of York was chief mourned.

The usual ceremony of proclamation and salutation, announced the accession of George IV. and another important era commenced.

The death of George III. changed only the title of his successor, as he had already possessed

for some years all the attributes of royal power. The first public act of the new King was to summon a privy council, at which, the emblems of office having been surrendered by the officers of the crown, to whom they were immediately restored, and the customary oath being taken, His Majesty was pleased to make the following declaration:—

“I have directed that you should be assembled here, in order that I may discharge the painful duty of announcing to you the death of the King, my beloved father.

“It is impossible for me adequately to express the state of my feelings upon this melancholy occasion; but I have the consolation of knowing, that the severe calamity with which His Majesty has been afflicted for so many years, has never effaced from the minds of his subjects the impressions created by his many virtues; and his example will, I am persuaded, live for ever in the grateful remembrance of his country.

“Called upon, in consequence of His Majesty’s indisposition, to exercise the prerogatives of the crown on his behalf, it was the first wish of my

heart to be allowed to restore into his hands the powers with which I was entrusted. It has pleased Almighty God to determine otherwise; and I have not been insensible to the advantages which I have derived from administering, in my dear father's name, the government of this realm.

“The support which I have received from Parliament and the country, in times the most eventful, and under the most arduous circumstances, could alone inspire me with that confidence which my present station demands.

“The experience of the past will, I trust, satisfy all classes of my people, that it will ever be my most anxious endeavour to promote their prosperity and happiness, and to maintain unimpaired, the religion, laws, and liberties of the kingdom.”

Whereupon the lords of the council made it their humble request to His Majesty, that this His Majesty's most gracious declaration to their lordships might be made public; which His Majesty was pleased to order accordingly.

On Monday, the 31st, the King was proclaimed with the usual forms by the venerable Sir Isaac

Heard, Garter King at Arms, under the portico of the palace, and afterwards at Charing Cross, Temple Bar, and the other customary stations. Sir Isaac being then in the ninetieth year of his age, His Majesty, with the kindest consideration, though he allowed him to make the proclamation under the portico of the palace, would not suffer him to expose himself to the fatigue of accompanying the procession to Charing Cross and the city.

Alarming disturbances continued to trouble the northern parts of England, and the neighbourhood of Glasgow, where, on the 2nd of April, a seditious address was issued, declaring that the struggle between the government and the people had commenced. The soldiers were invited to join the people, and all who should oppose the regeneration of the country were denounced as traitors. The next day all business ceased. Thousands of workmen were seen loitering about the streets, as if waiting for a signal. But all these proceedings ended with a skirmish, in which nineteen of the rioters were taken prisoners, some of whom expiated their error on the scaffold, repenting

the delusion which had misled them; while the wretches who must have been the authors of the plan escaped, by concealment, the punishment which they so well deserved.

A plot of a most diabolical nature, happily rare in the annals of our country, was contrived for the purpose of bringing about a revolution like that in France; the first step towards which was to have been the murder of all the ministers, while assembled at a cabinet dinner at Lord Harrowby's. The plot was however discovered to the government by one of the conspirators, and Arthur Thistlewood, the leader, and his associates, were tried and found guilty of high-treason, conspiracy, murder, and felony. Thistlewood and five others were beheaded, five were transported for life, and one pardoned.

The King, on meeting the new Parliament, declared in his speech, that he should follow his father's example in his solicitude for the welfare of the nation; that economy should be observed in the public expenditure, and that the royal dignity should be supported without additional burdens on the people; His Majesty expressed his deter-

mination to maintain the public peace and tranquillity, lamented the pressure of distress, which was aggravated by a spirit of turbulence and sedition; and concluded with a hope that the misguided might be led to a due sense of their errors. The King on this occasion seemed in good spirits, but not in good health; having been seriously attacked by inflammation on the lungs during the first half of February. The assemblage both in and out of the House was unprecedented, and His Majesty was loudly cheered both in going to the House and on his return. On the 16th of May, the King held a chapter of the Order of the Bath; and on the 16th of June, he had a drawing-room, at which the court was out of mourning.

Death, which had latterly so often afflicted the royal family, now deprived it of another highly-respected member, in her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, who died on the 6th of August, at Oatlands, at the age of fifty-three years. She had lived separate from the Duke, though both retained a great regard for each other, and behaved to each other with kindness, and as her illness gained ground, with a degree of affection: the

duke was with her in her last moments. She lived in retirement, but was beloved by all who knew her; was a great favorite both with George III. and his successor, and adored by the poor, towards whom her charity was unbounded.

The most anxious period of the King's reign was now come; the eyes of the nation, and indeed of Europe, were turned on his royal consort, now become Queen of England. She was in Italy, where she had resided ever since her return from a journey to the east. Reports to her disadvantage had long been circulated, and on the death of George III. it was generally imagined that some arrangement would be made for her permanent residence abroad, with her own consent, and without any more open breach between her and the King, than that which already existed. But the first measures adopted towards her were injudicious: no official notice was sent her of the King's death, of which she was informed by Mr. Brougham, who sent Sicard, an old and faithful servant of hers, to Italy, with the news. She immediately replied to Mr. Brougham, that she was determined to return to England; and

she ordered him, as her Attorney-General, to apply for Buckingham House as her place of residence. To a question from Mr. Brougham, in the House of Commons, on the 22d of February, 1820, Lord Castlereagh declared, that the English functionaries abroad should treat Her Majesty with respect, and that no indignity should be offered to her. Notwithstanding this, she was said to have received the most insulting neglect, and even positive rudeness, from some of our ministers abroad. The King now ordered her name to be struck out of the Liturgy; and the equivocal relation between them gave rise to many debates in the House of Commons, particularly about increasing her income, in proportion as her dignity had increased. Lord Liverpool, founding his proceeding on a proposition made to ministers in June, 1819, by Mr. Brougham, "that if the present allowance were continued, her Royal Highness might be induced to live abroad, and resign her claim to the title of Queen Consort," wrote, on the accession of the King, to Mr. Brougham, adverting to the above proposal as having come officially from her advisers. The

only alteration proposed was to increase the income from £35,000, to £50,000 per annum.

Before the princess could be acquainted with this negociation, she learnt the death of the King, and the erasure of her name from the Liturgy. She assumed the title of Queen, and wrote letters of compliment to England, and soon after set out on her journey to this country. She was to have met Mr. Brougham at Genoa, but she hastened forward and met him at St. Omers, together with Lord Hutchinson, who went on the part of the King, to propose that £50,000 a-year should be her allowance, on the condition that she should reside abroad, and never assume any right or title appertaining to the royal family of England. The Queen gave an instant and indignant answer to the proposition, and immediately left France for England, where she arrived, at Dover, on the 5th of June, 1820.

Feelings, honorable to the English nation—compassion for the unfortunate—a desire to support the weaker side—and resentment of supposed injuries, united, with the sentiment common to all mankind—a belief that innocence begets con-

fidence—to secure for the Queen, thus situated, a most energetic and enthusiastic welcome. A similar spirit lighted one hundred flambeaux, and collected ten thousand persons the same night, to greet her arrival at Canterbury. Her route to London was a continued triumph, and her arrival there its climax. The lower and the middling classes of society predominated in this display of feeling. The cheers Her Majesty received were paid to her situation, and to the courage which appeared to brave it; the popular hatred of any thing like oppression had its share in the excitement; and it may be added, that at this period very few persons in England were acquainted with the nature or the proofs of the charge against her. How this honorable feeling became perverted into a political passion, and with what art, the noble sympathy of the many was employed in the party purposes of the few, will be long remembered. Flags, processions, placards, addresses, newspaper paragraphs, coffee-house harangues, pulpit eloquence, and mob outrage, were parts of the machinery; but the prime mover was not palpable to sight.

His Majesty was equally prompt and determined in his conduct; and on the 6th of June, Lords Liverpool and Castlereagh laid on the tables of the respective Houses of Parliament, a message from the King, desiring that the Houses would take into immediate consideration certain documents, then furnished, relative to the malpractices of the Queen while upon the continent. Various adjournments took place, in order to afford an opportunity of a private arrangement, and numerous meetings were held in St. James's-square, at Lord Castlereagh's, between his lordship and the Duke of Wellington, as the friends of the King, and Messrs. Brougham and Denman as the law-officers of the Queen. These were in vain; and at last Mr. Wilberforce made a motion in the House of Commons, for an address to the Queen, praying her, for the sake of the public tranquillity, to yield; the Commons pledging themselves, that her thus yielding should not in any way prejudice her character. She refused.

At last, on the 5th of July, Lord Liverpool brought in a Bill of Pains and Penalties against Her Majesty, depriving her of her rights as

Queen of England, and dissolving her marriage, on the ground of criminal intercourse with an individual named Bergami, who held a confidential situation in her household. This measure was only meant to intimidate the Queen, and adjournments took place to give time for its operation, and to produce a compromise. Her Majesty, however, stood firm to her purpose, and undauntedly appeared in the House of Lords during every discussion on the Bill, which, having been carried in the Lords by a majority of only nine votes, the Earl of Liverpool declared, that His Majesty's government had resolved to abandon the prosecution.

Soon after the funeral of George III. the King was desirous that preparations should be made for his coronation; but the Queen was an obstacle, as he could not brook the idea of her being crowned with him. The King opened the session of 1821 in person, on the 23rd of January. In the speech from the throne, the Queen was named by His Majesty, and the subject of a provision for her was recommended to Parliament.

Alluding to late events, the King said, "I well know, that the firmest reliance may be placed on that affectionate and loyal attachment to my person and government, of which I have recently received so many testimonies from all parts of my kingdom; and which, while it is most grateful to the inmost feelings of my heart, I shall ever consider as the best and surest safeguard of my throne."

Many debates took place during this session, on the question of the Liturgy, and other points, in which the ministers were often severely censured, but the House always decided in their favor, by large majorities. The sum of £50,000 per annum was voted for the Queen.

A proclamation was issued, fixing the 19th of July for the coronation, on which the Queen wrote to Lord Liverpool, to learn what arrangements had been made for her. She was answered, that the crown, using its undoubted privilege, would not have her included in the ceremony; and she was afterwards informed, that her attendance at the coronation would not be allowed.

The matter was argued before the privy council, her law officers pleading her right, but without success.

On Thursday, 19th of July, 1821, the long-expected ceremony took place. At half-past eight in the morning the Hall was closed against the admission of more company, and at about half-past ten His Majesty entered.

The procession moved from the Hall to the Abbey, where the crowning took place, and by four o'clock the King had returned to the Hall. He now retired to the Speaker's house until six, when His Majesty again entered the Hall, and, decorated with the crown and robes of state, he seated himself on the throne at the head of the table, and dinner commenced.

The preparations were judicious and splendid. Three hundred and twelve persons, besides the royal family, sat down to the dinner. The tables were seven feet wide, and each person had two feet of space allotted to him. The backs of the chairs were gothic arches covered with scarlet, and the Hall was floored with blue cloth. The

ceremony of the champion was performed between the first and second courses, whilst those allowed by the Court of Claims took place after the second course. At twenty minutes before eight, the King rose and left the Hall, and thus terminated the ceremony. The whole was magnificent, and costly beyond all precedent; and never did His Majesty appear in better spirits than throughout this fatiguing day.

It is painful to proceed. The Queen, who on this occasion was unquestionably ill-advised, appeared during the ceremony at the several entrances of the Abbey and the Hall, and was everywhere refused admittance. The populace, incensed at the repulse she had met with, collected in mobs, and broke the windows of the houses of His Majesty's personal friends, and chief officers, and ministers of state. This was the last of the humiliations that this ill-fated princess was destined to receive. The mortification of this moment embittered the few remaining days of her life, and most probably hastened the approach of death, which on the 7th of August

put an end to her sufferings. Yet was her spirit undaunted and energetic at the moment of death, as it had been throughout her life.

In her will she had desired that her body should be conveyed to Brunswick, and that the inscription on her coffin should be, "Here lies Caroline of Brunswick, the injured Queen of England." The ministers consented to the conveyance of the body to Brunswick, and appointed a military guard of honor to attend it. The funeral was fixed for the 14th of August.

It might have been hoped that party spirit and faction would be now allayed; but even the funeral procession gave occasion to disgraceful outrages. It reached Kensington in good order, and was to have proceeded along the great road north of London, to avoid the confusion and riot that were to be apprehended if it passed through the city. But its farther progress was stopped by a barrier of carts and waggons, placed to obstruct it, and, after some serious affrays with the military, in which two persons were killed by the soldiers, who were obliged to fire in their own defence, against the stones with which they

were assailed, the mob prevailed, and the procession passed through the city. These disgraceful scenes were renewed almost to the sea-side. The funeral in the cathedral of Brunswick, was performed with great solemnity and splendor, amidst an immense concourse of her countrymen, who were deeply affected by this closing scene of the earthly career of their princess.

The whole of these unhappy proceedings are still fresh in the memory of the nation; and the mention of them even now, awakens in those who took the most lively interest in them, feelings so unpleasant, that it must seem far better to let the whole gradually sink into oblivion, than, by unnecessary discussion, to revive the memory of a contest, the principal parties in which are now withdrawn from all the petty cares of this mortal life, and sheltered both from enmity and flattery, in the repose of the tomb.

The chief events in which His Majesty was personally concerned subsequent to his coronation, were, his visits to Ireland, Hanover, and Scotland.

On Saturday, the 11th of August, 1821, the

King embarked on board the Lightning steam-packet, and on the following day, about four in the afternoon, landed at Howth, in Ireland. His Majesty was recognised before he left the steam-boat, and the most loyal greetings welcomed him on shore. He very cordially acknowledged this gratification, and when in his carriage shook hands with many of the throng, appearing to enjoy the absence of etiquette, and to indulge the humor of the moment. Signal guns conveyed the first notice of the King's arrival; and the characteristic enthusiasm of the nation was manifested on all sides. Immense crowds followed the course of the royal carriage, and from the steps of the vice-regal lodge, the King addressed the multitude:—"My lords and gentlemen, and my good yeomanry," said His Majesty, "I cannot express to you the gratification I feel at the warm and kind reception I have met with on this day of my landing among my Irish subjects: I am obliged to you all. I am particularly obliged by your escorting me to my very door. I may not be able to express my feelings as I wish. I have travelled far—I have made a long

voyage; besides which, particular circumstances have occurred, known to you all, of which it is better at present not to speak; * upon these subjects I leave it to delicate and generous hearts to appreciate my feelings. This is one of the happiest days of my life. I have long wished to visit you: my heart has always been Irish—from the day it first beat, I have loved Ireland. This day has shown me that I am beloved by my Irish subjects. Rank, station, honors, are nothing; but to feel that I live in the hearts of my Irish subjects, is to me the most exalted happiness. I must now once more thank you for your kindness, and bid you farewell. Go and do by me as I shall do by you; drink my health in a bumper; I shall drink all yours in a bumper of good Irish whiskey." It is unnecessary to remark, that this plain, homely speech from the royal lips, was hailed with hearty applause. The spirits of the nation seemed excited to a pitch of intoxication—in their own forcible language, they were mad with joy. The public authorities paid their duty at a private

* News of the Queen's death had just reached His Majesty.

levee on the 15th, and the great appeared to partake the rapture of the lower ranks on the arrival of His Majesty; his affability delighted them, and the most extravagant hopes of national and individual benefit originated in this visit. The public entry into Dublin occurred on the 17th; His Majesty wore the riband of the order of St. Patrick over his regimentals, and the lancers, in their splendid full dress, accompanied the procession: the King took possession of the castle, which became the palace. On the 23rd, the King dined with the Lord Mayor; on the 24th, he visited the Royal Society; and, after exhausting the pleasures of Irish sociality, and visiting the wonders of the capital, departed on the 7th of September. His embarkation was greeted with the same enthusiastic cheers that had marked his landing. On Thursday, the 13th, the King landed at Milford Haven, and immediately afterwards commenced his journey to London. The greatest expectations were entertained in both countries from this visit of the King to Ireland, but they were fatally disappointed; the feverish excitement of that period soon subsided; and the sanguine

people finding no immediate good from the King's presence, agreed to attribute a great portion of their existing evils to that cause. Poverty and misery awakened discontent and disunion; flames were kindled, murders perpetrated, and the most diabolical outrages prevailed. Religious discords inflamed the wounds of political animosity. Revenge and individual hatred dictated the darkest crimes, under the shadow of public good on the one side, and patriotic impulse on the other. Executions, imprisonments, and military occupation, were not sufficient to repress the tumults, or prevent the dreadful conflagrations and sanguinary struggles they gave birth to. The lord-lieutenant was recalled, a special commission for the trial of offenders was sent into the disturbed districts, and punishment followed an excitement that power could not repress. This year ended amid these horrors; the King's visit to Ireland appeared like a blink of sunshine on the island; but its dubious splendor was only the precursor of the storm.

The King had scarcely returned from Ireland, when he encountered the perils of a new voyage,

and the fatigue of another journey. On the 20th of September, he embarked at Gravesend, landed at Calais, and travelled through Lisle, Brussels, Aix-la-Chapelle, Dusseldorf, and Minden. His Majesty entered his German dominions on the 5th of October; the evening of which day he spent at Osnaburg. Here he received the officers of the palace, reviewed the 8th regiment of infantry, stationed there, and was hailed by the acclamations of the populace. On the following day, the Dukes of Cumberland and Cambridge met His Majesty, and the royal brothers dined together at Nienberg, where the court-house had been prepared for his reception; and that evening he slept in the palace of Herrenhausen. On the 11th of October, a salute of one hundred and one guns announced His Majesty's entrance into the capital of the kingdom of Hanover. The joy of a people who had been so long governed by the Brunswick family, under the title of "electors," at the sight of a member of that house, can easily be conceived. All political hostility was at an end, and party spirit reposed in peace; all ranks and classes of the people thronged to the welcome of

their King. His Majesty was drawn through the capital in an open carriage, by eight milk-white horses, surrounded by the pride of the kingdom. He underwent the fatigue of another coronation; at night the city was most brilliantly illuminated, and the King, with his royal brothers, joined in admiration of its splendor. Ten days were spent in this ancient capital, amidst rejoicings, public festivals, and private entertainments. He reviewed the military, received the civic deputations, visited the university of Göttingen, and joined in a grand hunting party at Diester. Again His Majesty accommodated himself to the people, spoke German, wore the Guelphic order, and left the most lively impressions of his affability and condescension in private, and in public established his claim to the proudest of all titles—that of a patriot King.

It may be as well to mention here, that on the death of the Duke of Brunswick, in the campaign of 1815, the Prince Regent assumed the guardianship of his two sons, and the administration of the Duchy of Brunswick. The Prince Regent's government of it was highly advantageous to

the country ; many wounds were healed—many abuses corrected—and an improved constitution introduced. The time when the Dukes of Brunswick are to be considered as of age to assume the reins of government, not being very accurately defined, the King debated whether he should lay down his office of guardian when the young duke should attain the age of eighteen, or leave him another year to complete his education. By the advice, and with the concurrence, of the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia, he decided on the latter course ; the young prince, however, was highly offended at this, and, on assuming the government, declared all that his uncle had done, during the last year, to be illegal. An unhappy breach was the consequence, in which the young prince manifested much unbecoming heat of temper, while his uncle's letters to him were models of kindly feeling, and truly paternal solicitude. Some time before the King's death the duke had yielded, but with a very ill grace, to the injunctions of the Germanic Diet, to make an apology to the King ; but the matter was not wholly settled at His Majesty's decease.

Many anecdotes of His Majesty's condescension and good-humor were circulated at the time. He appeared to be extremely pleased with his two little nephews, the sons of the Dukes of Cumberland and Cambridge. The first time he saw them, he asked them if they could speak English, on which Prince George of Cambridge quickly exclaimed, "*God save the King!*"

In His Majesty's speech on opening the session in February, 1822, he expressed his gratification at the loyalty of the Irish, and his deep concern at the state of that unhappy kingdom. On proroguing the Parliament, on the 6th of August, he again adverted to Ireland, and hoped that the large sums that had been voted by Parliament, and raised by private charity, in the famine and distress which had lately afflicted Ireland, would tend to unite all classes of his subjects in feelings of brotherly love and affection.

Only two days after His Majesty set out on another visit to a remote point of his kingdom, a most melancholy event took place—the death of the Marquis of Londonderry, who, in a fit of insanity, indications of which had been noticed by

the King and the Duke of Wellington, put a period to his existence on the 12th of August, by dividing the jugular vein with a penknife.

On Saturday, the 10th of August, the King embarked at Greenwich on a voyage to Scotland, and arrived on the 17th off Leith. As the royal squadron sailed down the river and along the British coast, it was everywhere hailed with the liveliest enthusiasm. His Majesty landed at Leith on the 18th, and, welcomed and accompanied by immense multitudes, entered Edinburgh. The following sketch of His Majesty's visit, given in a popular journal, is highly interesting:—

“Those acquainted with the place and the character of the people, need not be told that scenery and circumstance gave unusual effect and interest to this event. The castle, and the long-deserted palace of a line of kings, form the beginning and end of one street, rising from the valley to the ridge of the rock—the palace bosomed in the hollow, the castle crowning the craggy precipice; houses of immense height unite these objects by a singularly picturesque avenue, sufficiently irregular to give it interest, and not so

incongruous as to deform it; a deep natural fosse separates this immense mole from the neighbouring ground; looking down from the castle towards the palace, the old town, with every possible diversity of building—college, cathedral, cottage, and mansion—extends and is continued on one side of the Calton-hill. On the left, the new town, with the strictest regard to uniformity, stretches its long lines of corresponding buildings. The towns are united by two bridges, upon and beneath which streets are continued. Above the palace, and opposite to the castle, rises the Calton-hill, circled with castellated buildings, crowned with temples, and surmounted by a monument, an immense obelisk rising from its summit. All these objects are visible in the approach from Leith.

“ A principle of veneration is an essential ingredient in the mind of the Scottish people. Faithful attachment to acknowledged and hereditary chieftainship, is a consequence of a long-continued and scarcely-abolished system of feudal superiority. Love of country and self-respect are united with religious feeling, in their submis-

sion to the powers that be. With these sentiments, few who could accomplish the means, neglected to avail themselves of this opportunity of gratifying strong natural and habitual feelings; and that decency and propriety of demeanor and appearance which is characteristic of the people, added gravity and respectability to their expressions of enthusiasm. Their shouts were not the noisy ebullition of sanguine hopes and extravagant joy. There were a depth of sentiment, a chastened and regulated delight, which, arising from individual feeling, harmonised the general chorus. It was not wild exultation, but the genuine expression of pure and heart-felt homage, that greeted the King.

“His Majesty landed on the spot sacred to the tread of royalty in the legendary chronicles of this enthusiastic people. The officers of the household, and members of the state, in splendid uniforms and appropriate insignia, awaited his landing. He wore the full-dress uniform of an admiral, with St. Andrew's cross, and a large thistle in the gold-laced hat. The Lord-Lieutenant of Mid-Lothian, and the Lord Chamberlain,

received His Majesty on shore, and the senior magistrate congratulated him. The King mounted his carriage, while cavalry and infantry, as usual—Highlanders—and the gentlemen archers of the royal guard, saluted him in the due forms of their respective services. The royal cortége was peculiarly interesting, from the variety of costume adopted, without pride or affectation, but in strict compliance with the costume of the country. The King himself declared that the beauty of the scenery, the splendor of the display, and the deep thunder of his welcome, affected him more than any thing else in the course of his life. The people in their turn were equally delighted with the condescension and affability of their prince.

“ His Majesty passed the night of the 18th at Dalkeith, as a guest of the Duke of Buccleugh, and the following day held a levee in the palace of Holyrood House, again restored to the dignity of its former years. The King on this occasion wore the Highland costume, and became the tartan of the Stuarts. Three thousand persons paid their duty to His Majesty at a court held at Holyrood House on the day following. His

Majesty received his visitors in a field-marshal's uniform; danced with the young, talked with the old, and won the hearts of all. A splendid feast was given by the Lord Provost, in the Parliament House. The venerable Dr. Baird, Principal of the University, said grace, and Sir Walter Scott officiated as *croupier*. When the King's health had been drank, His Majesty stood up and said, 'I am quite unable to express my sense of the gratitude which I owe to the people of this country; but I beg to assure them, that I shall ever remember, as one of the proudest moments of my life, the day I came among them, and the gratifying reception they gave me. I return you, my Lord Provost, my lords, and gentlemen, my warmest thanks for your attention this day; and I can assure you with truth, with earnestness, and sincerity, that I shall never forget your dutiful attention to me upon my visit to Scotland, and particularly the pleasure I have derived from dining in your hall this day.' 'God save the King,' and immense cheerings, followed. The King continued—'I take this opportunity, my lords and gentlemen, of proposing the health of

the Lord Provost, *Sir* William Arbuthnot, *Baronet*, and the Corporation of Edinburgh.' When the King named the Lord Provost by the title which he by so doing conferred, the magistrate knelt and kissed the King's hand, which was held out at the moment, and the incident was loudly applauded by the company. The King afterwards gave as a toast—'Health to the Chieftains and Clans, and God Almighty bless the Land of Cakes;' and added, 'Drink this with three times three, gentlemen.' How can a sovereign fail to be popular, who thus mixes with his people, and wins towards his own person that affectionate regard which secures a dutiful obedience to his high office? In uniting dignity with hilarity in his meetings with his subjects, no monarch ever possessed the art of George IV.; and his example shows forcibly that the personal qualifications of the sovereign are of great importance to the welfare and happiness of the nation. His Majesty departed by a different route, on Thursday, the 29th, and in his way he paid a visit to the Earl of Hopetown; and at the house of that nobleman, conferred the honor of knighthood on the cele-

brated portrait painter, Raeburn. At Queensferry, the country people assembled to gratify their curiosity with a last look, and express their loyalty in a parting cheer. The roar of cannon from all the hills, and the louder shouts of the multitude, greeted his embarkation at port Edgar. A fair wind brought the royal squadron to Greenwich on the 1st of September; and the crowds which had assembled to bid him farewell on his departure, gathered again to testify their joy and gratitude for his safe return. On his landing, the orphans of the Naval Asylum presented an interesting object for the royal sympathy, and their simple welcome was affecting. Towards evening, the bells of the neighbouring churches announced His Majesty's arrival at Carlton Palace."

In 1823, the national prosperity was evidently increasing. The ministry were popular; Lord Liverpool was still prime minister, Mr. Canning had succeeded to Lord Londonderry, Mr. Robinson to Mr. Vansittart (Lord Bexley), and Mr. Huskisson was President of the Board of Trade.

At the commencement of 1824, the crisis of distress seemed to have passed away, and to

have left the country in a state of progressive prosperity ; but the superabundance of capital led to a spirit of speculation, and to the conception of the most extravagant schemes, which were eagerly supported by joint-stock companies, and presented on the whole a system of fraud and speculation on the one hand, and of credulity blinded by lust of gain on the other, that indeed cannot be paralleled in the annals of the mercantile world, and which ultimately led to the most ruinous consequences ; and the year 1825, which appeared to open with the fairest prospects, ended in unprecedented misery and ruin ; most important commercial failures caused great distress, and seventy-three banking-houses stopped payment in a few months. This state of things continued at the beginning of 1826, and the King's speech pointed at the cause—heedless speculation. The Parliament was dissolved on the 2nd of June, and on the 21st of November, the King went in person to open the new Parliament.

So long a space had elapsed since the appearance of His Majesty in public, and so little was known of the private life of the King, in his

retirement, that the most intense curiosity existed to behold him in his progress to the House of Lords on this occasion. The King wore his coronation dress, with a black hat and white feathers. His Majesty looked remarkably well—loud acclamations hailed his appearance, and his people's joy and attachment were demonstrated at every step of his progress. The King opened the first session of this new Parliament with a speech, which explained the reason of their early summons—the necessity of their sanction to an order of council for the opening of the ports. It announced the happy termination of the war in India—peace with the world, and endeavours to preserve it. A diminution in the revenue, and the distresses of the people, were allowed and regretted, and hopes confidently expressed of an early and permanent relief to the difficulties under which the people had so long and patiently suffered.

The endeavours of France and England, to arrange the existing differences between the courts of Spain and Portugal having fallen to the ground, and the aggressions of the former against

the latter power, having assumed an unquestionable shape, the King despatched a message to Parliament, rehearsing these matters, communicating an application by the Princess Regent of Portugal for assistance from this country, and stating His Majesty's desire to assist his ancient ally. An address, in answer to this message, most eloquently moved, and unanimously supported, enabled His Majesty to employ immediate and effective interference in the affairs of Portugal, and a body of troops were in a remarkably short time landed in that country.

Parliament agreed, in this view of the subject, with the ministry, and the whole nation appeared to be of one opinion; never were a government and its subjects in more complete unison. On the 13th of December the Parliament adjourned.

The clergy of the province of Canterbury, in convocation, presented an address to His Majesty, in November, expressing their apprehension of certain endeavours making, and to be made, against the good of the Church, and their trust in His Majesty's protection, as its head. The King replied, "My lords, and the rest of the

clergy, I receive with great satisfaction this loyal and dutiful address. The renewed assurances of your attachment to my person and government are most acceptable to me. I rely with the utmost confidence upon your zealous exertions to promote true piety and virtue—to reclaim those who are in error, by the force of divine truth—and to uphold and extend among my people, the preference which is so justly due to the pure doctrine and service of our established church. That church has every claim to my constant support and protection. I will watch over its interests with unwearied solicitude, and confidently trust that I shall be enabled, by the blessing of Divine Providence, to maintain it in the full possession of every legitimate privilege.”

The year 1827, which commenced under more favorable auspices than the last, was a period of peculiar affliction to His Majesty. His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who had long struggled under a most painful disorder, had been gradually sinking since September, when he underwent an operation, and expired on the 5th

of January, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. He endured the agonies of his disorder with fortitude and resignation, and continued to the last to discharge the important duties of his high office, with a strength of mind above all praise. He entered into the minute details of the expedition to Portugal; and, on the very last week of his life, took advantage of a visit from the King, to obtain the royal consent to a plan for the promotion of old subalterns in the army. His passage to the grave was smoothed by the consolations of religion, and by the unremitting and tender attention of his family.

The affliction of His Majesty, at the loss of his best friend, his most beloved brother, and almost constant companion and confidant, may be easier conceived than described. His Royal Highness was succeeded in the office of commander-in-chief by his grace the Duke of Wellington; and as heir-apparent to the throne, by the Duke of Clarence, whose income was increased by the House of Commons in consequence of this change. Soon after the opening of Parliament, Lord Liverpool was at-

tacked by a paralytic stroke, from which he never recovered so as to resume his office, but he lingered till December, 1828. As a minister, he had the rare felicity of being equally esteemed by his own colleagues and his political opponents, who all did justice to his unspotted integrity. The illness of the minister greatly embarrassed the King, who, after many negotiations between the members of the cabinet and the leading persons in the two Houses, determined that Mr. Canning should succeed Lord Liverpool; and that, with the addition of a successor to Mr. Canning, the ministry should remain as before. On this, the Duke of Wellington, Lords Eldon, Bathurst, Westmoreland, and Bexley, and Mr. Peel, gave in their resignations. Many other persons holding high offices, resigned also; but the recess gave Mr. Canning time to remodel the cabinet, which was effected before the meeting of Parliament. One of the most remarkable of the new appointments was that of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, to the post of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain. The new ministry was exceedingly popular; but Mr. Can-

ning, after holding his high office only four months, died on the 8th of August, at the Duke of Devonshire's seat, at Chiswick. His death was considered as a national calamity, and was generally and deeply deplored.

The death of Mr. Canning did not lead to the immediate dissolution of the cabinet; Lord Goderich (late Mr. Robinson) succeeded Mr. Canning, and Mr. Herries became Chancellor of the Exchequer. This ministry proved wholly inefficient, and died a natural death at the beginning of the following year, when His Majesty resolved to have a minister who should at least be capable of adopting decisive measures; his choice fell on the Duke of Wellington, who soon marshalled his forces, including the whole strength of the party who went out on the nomination of Mr. Canning. Lord Eldon, retiring on account of his great age, was succeeded, as Chancellor, by Lord Lyndhurst; Lord Dudley was Secretary for Foreign Affairs; and thus the administration was restored to nearly the same state as it was left on the illness of Lord Liverpool. Further changes were made on the resig-

nation of Mr. Huskisson, which soon followed, and on the Duke of Clarence's resignation of the Admiralty.

The session of 1828 was both opened and closed by commission, the King continuing in profound retirement. This was a remarkable period. The Corporation and Test Acts, after many repeated and fruitless attempts, were repealed, and a new and more satisfactory corn bill was passed. Meantime, very extraordinary events occurred in Ireland. Mr. O'Connell, a Catholic lawyer, stood candidate for the county of Clare, relying on a new construction of the existing laws, and was returned by a great majority. A body, called the Catholic Association, endeavoured to promote union among the peasantry, and to carry on with vigor the great object of emancipation. On the other hand, Orange Societies were revived, and Brunswick Lodges instituted. Party spirit was at its height, and the kingdom appeared to be on the brink of a civil war.

In the course of this year, the young Queen of Portugal, Donna Maria da Gloria, and her uncle,

Don Miguel, visited this country, but not at the same time.

On the 5th of February, 1829, the Parliament was again opened by commission, with a speech of far greater importance than those compositions usually are.

After alluding to the war of Russia against Turkey, the state of Spain, to the still suspended international relations of England and Portugal, and to the general good-will of the European powers towards this country, the speech went on to a more immediately essential matter—the recommendation of a calm consideration of the Catholic question.

This great question, acknowledged by all parties to be the most important that had been submitted to Parliament since the accession of the House of Brunswick, was at length to be for ever decided. The ministers, who had hitherto been its most violent opposers, and who had abandoned Mr. Canning because they feared his influence in its favor, must have had the most overwhelming proofs of the necessity of the step

which they had recommended to their sovereign, or they never would have made such a sacrifice of personal feeling and of political consistency, as they did by advocating Catholic Emancipation. The effects of so extraordinary a change are not yet sufficiently developed to form an accurate judgment of the future results; yet it seems already clear that it has greatly improved the political state of Ireland, and it is to be hoped, that, when there is less opportunity for factious demagogues to inflame the minds of the people, their energies may be more beneficially exerted than they have hitherto been. The friends of this great measure, while they rejoice at its accomplishment, could not suppress a tributary sigh to the memory of Canning.

The session was closed by commission, and the King did not afterwards take an active part in public business.

The parliamentary session of 1830 was opened by commission on the 4th of February, and in the speech were repeated the King's congratulations on the continued peace of Europe, and his friendly relations with all foreign courts; and it

was stated that the amount of exports of British manufacture and articles of commerce had exceeded that of any former year.

His Majesty's public history being now closed, it will be proper, before adverting to the last scene of his earthly career, to take a brief view of his habits during the last few years of his life, which were passed almost in seclusion. In 1826, he opened the Parliament in person, and visited both the theatres. The enthusiastic gratulations of his subjects saluted him on those occasions; and about the same time he held a levee and drawing-room. In 1827, he was gratified by a visit from his eldest sister, the Queen of Wirtemberg, and held occasional courts. In 1828, he received Don Miguel of Portugal, held a court in March, a drawing-room in April, and in the following month levees were held, and balls given; towards the end of the same year, the young Queen of Portugal was acknowledged and received at court, and in the spring of 1829, St. James's Palace was the royal residence. The Queen of Portugal and the Princess Victoria were invited to meet the juvenile branches of the nobility

at a ball given by the King on the 29th; and as business required, His Majesty came to London, held a court, and returned to Windsor the same day; latterly the courts were held exclusively at Windsor; and finally, in May, 1830, a commission was appointed to exercise the royal privilege of signature.

The private life of the King was as little eventful as the functions of his state were varied. Every year, until the present, the races on Ascot-heath were honored with his presence, and the public occasionally heard of a removal from Windsor to Brighton, or from the Royal Lodge to Windsor Castle. A distinguished party were invited to relieve the tedium of declining life; and it might be recorded, that in such invitations no political distinctions were regarded; nor were his companions and friends exclusively chosen from the higher ranks; talent and virtue introduced themselves, and the most distinguished literary and scientific characters of the present day often constituted the majority of the King's party.

The royal palaces engaged a great proportion of the King's attention. Carlton House was

pulled down in the progress of those improvements in the metropolis, which will make His Majesty's reign an epoch in its history. St. James's was still used for state occasions. Kew was in ruins, and Buckingham House was demolished, and chosen as the site of a new and splendid mansion fitted for the residence of a king. The Pavilion at Brighton was occasionally used in the season. The magnificent and truly royal castle of Windsor underwent material alterations, and in the course of these improvements, His Majesty resided at the Royal Lodge or Cottage at Windsor.

The royal out-door amusements consisted in sailing and fishing on Virginia Water, when the weather permitted, and, under favorable auspices, a drive in a pony phaeton in the magnificent purlieus of Windsor Forest. The King dined early, with his family, and select friends shared his meal. The Duke of Cumberland often accompanied His Majesty in his drives. In August, 1829, he laid the foundation stone of an equestrian statue to the memory of his father.

His Majesty having attained his sixty-seventh year, found public state and ceremony more and

more burdensome, and sought relief in retirement. But he still continued passionately attached to the arts, and interested in their improvement. He enjoyed the light literature of the day, and the reading of the drama was his favorite amusement. Occasional fits of illness befel him in his retreat, and rendered seclusion more necessary and more welcome. Reports, more and more alarming, were spread, but it was not till the 15th of April, 1830, that it was thought necessary to issue a bulletin, which announced that His Majesty had had a bilious attack, accompanied by an embarrassment in his breathing; and that though free from fever, he was languid and weak. Other bulletins were issued on the 19th, 22nd, 24th, and 26th, after which they were continued daily exactly for two months, the last, announcing His Majesty's decease, being of the 26th of June.

During these two months, the public anxiety was extreme; the oracular conciseness and obscurity of the bulletins, gave but little insight into the nature of His Majesty's complaint, into the actual state of his health, or even the opinion of his physicians. Other information was, there-

fore, eagerly sought; but as the accounts published in the daily prints were often at complete variance with each other, the nation was, in fact, left in the dark, and it could only be conjectured that His Majesty was labouring under a painful disorder, which could not be expected to terminate favorably; but to what period his sufferings might be protracted, could not be anticipated. This state of things was extremely disagreeable to the people, who, though accustomed to the loss of their sovereign's presence, could not endure being left in doubt respecting his health. Another cause of anxiety was the state of trade, which had begun to revive, but was now almost suspended, in the apprehension of the King's decease, which would lead to a general mourning.

Though the language of the bulletins was less explicit than it might have been, yet it is evident, on reading them in succession, that the medical attendants did not entertain, except, perhaps, for a few days in June, any very favorable opinion as to the issue of the disorder; and, if the public was more sanguine, it was, in a great measure, owing to the daily accounts that were published

of the long visits which he received from different members of the royal family, whose conversations with him were often related, not to mention his frequent conferences with his ministers. But the true indication of the King's state was His Majesty's message to Parliament, on the 24th of May, stating, that severe indisposition rendered it inconvenient and painful for him to sign with his own hand those public instruments which required the sign manual. On this, an act was passed, authorising the use of a stamp, by commissioners, in His Majesty's presence, and by his command, for his powers of mind remained unimpaired to the last. Some of the bulletins, in the second week in June, announcing that His Majesty had had good nights, that his breathing was less embarrassed, &c. naturally excited the most cheering hopes; and there cannot be a better proof of the ardent wishes of the people for the prolongation of the King's life, than the eagerness with which they caught at every thing that could induce an inference that His Majesty's vigorous constitution would triumph over the disorder. Unhappily, the bulletin of the 20th of

June announced the appearance of a new enemy, a harassing cough, which, in the case of a patient less exhausted by previous disease, might have had a beneficial effect, in relieving the constitution by expectoration; and it was fondly hoped that such might be the case here, but it proved otherwise. His Majesty gradually grew weaker and weaker till his death, which was brought on rather suddenly by the bursting of a blood-vessel in a fit of coughing.

Though no bulletins were issued till April, it is certain that His Majesty had manifested during last autumn, symptoms of the disorder which terminated his life. He had been long subject to an intermittent pulse, which indicated some impediment in the circulation of the blood; and it appeared on opening the body after death, that the valves of the aorta were partly ossified, and there was a considerable degree of fatness about that organ generally; in short, the appearances on the *post-mortem* examination sufficiently justified the opinion, that His Majesty's sufferings might have been protracted, but that ultimate recovery was impossible.

It is highly, though painfully interesting, at such a crisis, to record, if possible, what was said by the royal sufferer, the King still preserving entire all the faculties of his mind. On Monday morning (the 31st of May), His Majesty expressed himself with his characteristic equanimity to one of his earliest and dearest friends, remarking, that it had been proposed to call in additional medical advice, but that he was satisfied the disease could not be arrested, and that every thing was done to mitigate his anguish that art could suggest. To an observation relative to ministerial changes, His Majesty replied, "Come, let us not talk of politics, I have done with them, and I am sure every thing will go on well." The King's voice was firm, the self-possession and suavity of his manner unimpaired, and His Majesty expressed himself as enjoying the reflection of never having intentionally wronged or injured any individual. It has been stated also, as it appears on good authority, that His Majesty had repeated conversations with his sister, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, in the course of which the King gave instructions as to arrangements

after his demise, and repeatedly said, "Now mind what I say, do not forget my instructions." The illustrious sufferer, however, never lost his equanimity, and conversed with others in the most cheerful manner on ordinary subjects. His Majesty said nothing to them implying a consciousness of danger, or rather any apprehension; but, of course, the wishes he had expressed with regard to arrangements after his demise, shewed that the King was perfectly aware of the precariousness of his state, and that he might be very soon summoned to another scene of existence. The physicians had long been aware that His Majesty's death would probably be sudden, and he was prepared to receive the awful summons with resignation and submission. This intimation was given to him a fortnight before, and he piously ejaculated, "*God's will be done.*"

Within the last week he spoke but little, and in a tone quite faint, and sometimes almost inaudible and inarticulate. To speak so as to be heard in the chamber appeared to give him pain, and to require an effort beyond the remaining strength of his shattered constitution. Business

of any kind became excessively irksome, and affected his temper.

There had been some symptoms late on Thursday, which indicated a crisis of His Majesty's disorder: the expectorations became more tinged with blood, and indications of a ruptured blood-vessel. The King was himself aware of the inevitable result of these symptoms of his malady.

The royal patient was in bed when the stroke of death fell upon him. The page next him instantly proceeded to raise His Majesty, according to the motion which he signified by his finger. The King was at once assisted into a chair by his bedside, and a great alteration struck the page in a moment, as overcasting the royal countenance; the King's eyes became fixed, his lips quivered, and he appeared to be sinking into a fainting fit. The physicians were instantly sent for, and the attendants at once assisted the King with *sal volatile*, *eau de Cologne*, and such stimulants as were at hand on the table. At this moment His Majesty attempted to raise his hand to his breast, faintly ejaculating, "Oh God! I am dying;" and two or three seconds afterwards he said, "This is death;"

so as to be heard by the page, on whose shoulder His Majesty's head had fallen. The physicians were in the chamber the instant after death, and assisted to place the royal corpse on a couch. The whole of the household came into the apartment of their deceased master; and until nine o'clock the person of the King was open to the view of the attendants; and many tears were shed by the old servants, at the loss of a liberal and indulgent master. His Majesty's countenance immediately after death did not show any convulsive sense of pain at the moment of dissolution. His chest, however, was much swollen, as well as the abdomen and legs, while the upper part exhibited all the appearances of extreme emaciation.

Thus ended the mortal career of George the Fourth, whose government of this kingdom during a period of nineteen years, is one of the most momentous periods in our history since the accession of the House of Brunswick. A writer in a periodical journal says justly, "When we cast our retrospective glance upon the foreign affairs of the country, the glory of the reign of George the

Fourth shines out with unequalled and unmitigated splendor. Europe, rescued from the thralldom and degradation to which a fierce and domineering conqueror had reduced her, by the unconquerable firmness and perseverance of British councils, adequately sustained and seconded by the invincible prowess of British arms—the military character of Britain placed upon a lofty pinnacle of fame, to which the most aspiring of her statesmen, and the most intrepid of her heroes, in any former age, would have deemed it extravagance to aspire—a display of justice and moderation in the hour of victory, by which she at once consulted her own permanent welfare, and established a lasting claim to the gratitude alike of her enemies and her allies;—these are the irreproachable trophies of the reign of George the Fourth. Nor shall it be said that the personal character of the monarch had an inconsiderable share in their acquisition. He it was who made a noble and patriotic sacrifice of personal partialities, habits, and predilections, upon the altar of the country, at the moment when sovereign power, including of course that of

their unbounded gratification, first became his. This sacrifice the British nation will remember with gratitude to the latest posterity. It was a sacrifice the most painful that a generous monarch could be called upon to make."

With respect to the personal character of our late lamented sovereign, it will not be uninteresting to illustrate it by many particulars collected from various quarters, several of which must be already known to the reader, but which, when placed together, throw a strong light upon each other, and illustrate the merits of George IV. as a just and merciful prince, a kind friend, and liberal patron of literature and the arts, and of every institution that could promote the happiness and glory of his people.

The instances of His Majesty's patronage of literature and the arts, are far too numerous to be mentioned here.

In 1821, the King, at the instance of the present Bishop of Salisbury, then of St. David's, founded an institution, called the Royal Society of Literature; to which he gave a charter, and £1000 a year for pensions to ten honorary mem-

bers. Premiums for prize essays and poems were also founded. Opinions were at first much divided respecting the utility of this society; but though it is not, perhaps, every thing that the founders expected it to be, its transactions contain a great mass of valuable papers, and it boasts many of the most illustrious names in the literary world, both at home and abroad, among its members and contributors.

In 1822, a most patriotic work was projected by His Majesty, and immediately put in force. It was a national military record—to preserve an account of all the actions and battles in which British troops have been, or may be engaged; with the services of the army, and its grand divisions; regimental records of the services of each corps; names of distinguished individuals, with their grounds of distinction; and paintings of the colours and trophies captured in the different engagements.

In the same year, the Parliament presented an address to the King, to solicit His Majesty's royal sanction to a national work—the republishing of a regular series of the ancient histo-

rians of the kingdom. His Majesty's approbation of such a measure will be readily anticipated.

In January, 1823, the King wrote the following letter to Lord Liverpool:—

“ Pavilion, Brighton, January 15th, 1823.

“ DEAR LORD LIVERPOOL,

“ THE King, my late revered and excellent father, having formed during a long series of years a most valuable and extensive Library, I have resolved to present this collection to the British Nation.

“ Whilst I have the satisfaction by this means of advancing the literature of my country, I also feel that I am paying a just tribute to the memory of a parent, whose life was adorned with every public and private virtue.

“ I desire to add, that I have great pleasure, my Lord, in making this communication through you.

“ Believe me, with great regard,

“ Your sincere friend,

“ G. R.

“ The Earl of Liverpool, K. G. &c. &c. &c.”

The King's letter, together with certain resolutions of the trustees of the British Museum on the subject, having been, by His Majesty's command, laid before the House of Commons, were referred by the House to a select committee, who, on the 16th of April, made their report.

In this report, the committee, having noticed the great value and extent of the library, consisting of upwards of sixty-five thousand volumes, exclusive of a very numerous assortment of pamphlets, and an extensive collection of geography and topography, expressed their opinion, that the greatest benefit would be derived to the public, from placing this magnificent donation under the care of the trustees of the British Museum; and that a building should be raised for its reception, forming part of a general design for a suitable edifice for the several collections of the whole Museum; and the committee, in conclusion, recommended to the House, to make such grants from time to time, as might be sufficient to effect the purposes above specified, and to raise a structure worthy of the taste and dignity of the nation.

The House thereupon granted £40,000 for the commencement of this work; and a plan having been prepared by Mr. Smirke, and approved by the Lords of the Treasury, the foundation of the new structure was laid in the year 1823; the part intended to receive the royal library was completed in 1827; and in the following summer, this truly noble collection was removed into the Museum, where it remains, a splendid monument of the munificence of George the Fourth.

In 1824, it was resolved to carry into effect a favorite project of George III., to form a national gallery of paintings; and the noble collection of Mr. Angerstein was purchased for a commencement, at the price of £57,000. It has since been enlarged, by the purchase of some fine pictures, and by presents, particularly sixteen paintings given by Sir George Beaumont. If such an institution had existed some years back, it cannot be doubted, but that it would have been enriched by the addition of the gallery at Dulwich, and of the Fitzwilliam collection at Cambridge.

In the same year, the King gave £500 towards the erection of a monument to the memory of the celebrated James Watt; and a monument was raised by his munificence, at St. Germain's, to which were removed the bones of King James II. lately discovered there.

As an instance of the same good feeling, it may here be added, that, in February, 1816, Lord Castlereagh, in reply to some questions of Mr. Ponsonby, in the House of Commons, stated, that Cardinal York, the last survivor of the Stuarts, had, while at Rome, been stripped and plundered by the French. His Majesty, on being apprised of it, granted him a pension, and this generosity had produced so strong an impression of gratitude upon his mind, that he directed by his last will, that some interesting family documents, together with the collar of the Garter worn by James II. should be sent to the Prince Regent, as a memorial of respect. This had been done, and the bequests were accompanied by a request from the executor, that his Royal Highness would assist him in the erection of a monument to the deceased cardinal. His Royal Highness

complied, and the expense was defrayed out of the surplus of the contributions of the French government, which had been appropriated to the removal from Paris to Rome, of the statues which belonged to the latter city.

Some time after the death of the Cardinal of York, a Scotch gentleman of the name of Watson learned that he had left a vast mass of papers relative to the family of the Stuarts. How these papers first got out of the cabinet of the cardinal does not appear, but they came into the possession of Signor Tassoni, auditor to the Pope, and were confided to a priest named Lussi. Mr. Watson having been apprised of this circumstance, entered into a negociation with the two persons above named, and persuaded them to sell these manuscripts to him, and they were transferred to his lodgings. He shewed them to several English gentlemen at Rome, who advised him to lose no time, but to send them to England by the first opportunity. He disregarded this advice, and talked so much of his purchase, that the affair transpired, the papers were seized, and the priest imprisoned. The Pope afterwards

made a present of the whole to the Prince Regent, who ordered a selection to be made for publication.

In 1825, the King bestowed upon the Royal Society two annual medals of the value of fifty guineas each, to be awarded as honorary premiums under the direction of the president and council, in such manner as may seem best calculated to promote the object for which the society was instituted. His Majesty at the same time desired to be informed of the conditions upon which the society intended to give them. The resolution adopted on the occasion by the council, and communicated to and approved by His Majesty, was, that they should be given for the most useful discoveries or series of investigations completed, and made known to the society, in the year preceding the day of award.

In the year 1815, when Canova the sculptor came to Paris to reclaim the works of art of which Italy had been plundered by the French, he visited the English capital, and was introduced to the Prince Regent, who received him very graciously, and presented him with a snuff-box

enriched with brilliants. His Royal Highness also gave him an order for the construction of the mausoleum in honor of Cardinal York. Canova executed besides, for his Royal Highness, a group of Mars and Venus, intended to represent War and Peace; a statue of a recumbent Nymph; the Three Graces; and some other works.

In 1817, the Prince Regent having received from France the colossal statue of Buonaparte, executed by Canova, presented it to the Duke of Wellington. The Roman sculptor had been munificently patronized by the Buonaparte family. But little could he have thought that his labour to do them honor would pass into the possession of the destroyer of their power.

Of the King's benevolence, both in extensive donations to public charities, and in relief afforded to distressed individuals, the instances are innumerable. In 1825-1826, when the distress among the weavers in Spitalfields was extreme, and large subscriptions were made for their relief, His Majesty gave from his privy purse three several donations of £1000 each.

About 1790, the prince was exceedingly urgent

to have £800. The moment the money arrived, the prince drew on a pair of boots, pulled off his coat and waistcoat, slipped on a plain morning frock, without a star, and, turning his hair to the crown of his head, put on a slouched hat, and walked out. An officer of the army had just arrived from America, with a wife and six children, in such low circumstances, that, to satisfy some clamorous creditor, he was on the point of selling his commission, to the utter ruin of his family. The prince, by accident, overheard an account of the case. To prevent a worthy soldier suffering, he procured the money, and, that no mistake might happen, carried it himself. On asking at an obscure lodging-house, in a court near Covent-Garden, for the lodger, he was shown up to his room, and there found the family in the utmost distress. Shocked at the sight, he not only presented the money, but told the officer to apply to Colonel Lake, living in — street, and give some account of himself in future; saying which, he departed, without the family knowing to whom they were obliged.

Many years before his accession, and prior to the regency, the prince on his way to town sprained his ankle, which brought on a severe attack of gout. It happened near Hartford Bridge, and in consequence he was obliged to stop at the inn there some days, during which he was so well attended that he thanked the landlord, and promised him support. In the course of a few years the poor man fell back in the world, till at last all his effects were seized, and he and his family turned into the street. At the very distressing moment, when the sale was announced, Colonel Bloomfield passed, and stopped to inquire the cause. The landlord informed him, and intreated him to lay the case before his Royal Highness. The colonel did so, and the prince immediately sent down £100 for present relief, and followed the bounty with £400 more, besides which he promoted a subscription, and procured in all above £2000, which set the man up again.

One of the first acts of the King, after his accession, was to grant a royal charter, with a

subscription of four hundred pounds a year, to that meritorious charity, the Literary Fund.

When the King heard of the distress of Beethoven the composer, he sent him £200. In the same kind spirit he sent £100 to O'Keefe, with an assurance that the like sum should be given him annually.

Michael Kelly, who had been patronised by the Prince of Wales from his first appearance in 1787, continued to be honored by his favor to the last, and always received from him, on his benefit night, a donation of £100.

When Thomas Sheridan, the younger, after running a career of extravagance, was about to leave England for the Cape of Good Hope, the prince caused his debts to be discharged, and an outfit to be prepared. Sheridan went to Carlton House, to pay his respects, and the prince said, "I respected your father, and wish you well: but I am very poor; accept this, however, as a token of my good-will." This was a bank-note of £100.

The ingenious painter in miniature, Mr. Muss, having employed much time in reducing Raphael's picture of the Last Supper, died just after com-

pleting it, leaving a widow and young family. The prince, hearing of her distress, purchased the picture for £1500. The poor woman deposited this money for security in Fauntleroy's bank, and thereby lost the whole.

On the 12th of December, 1821, died at Brighton, aged 108, Phœbe Hessel, who had for many years served as a bather to the visitors of that watering place. Being incapacitated by age for the exercise of her vocation, she relied upon charity. The prince being informed of her necessities, sent to know what would render her comfortable: "Half-a-guinea a-week," said old Phœbe, "will make me as happy as a princess." This was granted.

The following epitaph is inscribed on a monumental stone in the churchyard:—"In memory of Phœbe Hessel, who was born at Stepney, in the year 1713. She served for many years as a private soldier in the 5th regiment of foot, in different parts of Europe, and in the year 1745, fought under the command of the Duke of Cumberland, at the battle of Fontenoy, where she received a bayonet wound in her arm. Her

long life, which commenced in the reign of Queen Anne, extended to George the Fourth, by whose munificence she received comfort and support in her latter years. She died at Brighton, where she had long resided, Dec. 12, 1821, aged 108 years, and lies buried here."

His Majesty's kindness to his domestics has been mentioned on a preceding occasion, and many pleasing anecdotes of this nature have been published.

Among the most glorious attributes of the sovereign is mercy, and it is well known that George IV. was never more happy than when he could exercise the noble privilege of pardon; and if the following anecdote, first published in a monthly periodical, should have received some embellishment in the telling, there can be little doubt that it is substantially correct:—

A person accustomed to be present at the courts held by the late King for the purposes of public business, is said to have spoken to a friend as follows, in reference to the Recorder's reports of the condemned criminals: "If, sir, you could *see and hear* what I have seen and heard, and what

will probably occur again after this day's council, you might feel little disposed to relate what you had seen with levity." The officer of the household then took a sheet of paper from the table, walked to the fireside, placed his right arm on the marble chimney-piece, while he held the paper in his left hand, and looking the artist steadfastly in the face, said, "Sir, if you would see my royal master in his truly princely character, fancy him this day, after the breaking up of the council, standing thus, and the Recorder of London in your place, bearing the list of the miserable culprits doomed to death by the sentence of the law—wretched criminals, most of whom are friendless, and all, perhaps, hopeless of mercy. How little do they or the world know, that the most powerful pleader for a remission of their punishment is the prince! he, whom the world, judging of uncharitably, though unwittingly, consider as too much absorbed in the pomp, and splendor, and enjoyments of royalty, to trouble himself with the miseries of his subjects—whilst, one by one, he inquires the nature of the offence in all its bearings, the measure of

the guilt of the offender, and whether the law absolutely demands the life of the criminal, palliating the offence by all the arguments worthy a wise and good chief magistrate, and becoming him who, under Divine Providence, as the ruler of the nation, is the fountain of mercy! Yes, sir, nearly two hours have I known the prince plead thus, in the presence of this minister of justice, for those who had no other counsellor; and his plea, enforced by arguments not less just than wise, has in many instances, not been made in vain."

Another circumstance reflecting the highest honor on His late Majesty, is that, as it is generally acknowledged, no British sovereign ever distributed the patronage of the church with so pure and laudable a regard to the interests of Christianity. How many eminent prelates now fill the highest stations in the church, whose advancement has been owing to their talents and virtues alone! Without any affectation, which was not in his nature, His Majesty was scrupulously exact in the performance of all the duties of the Christian religion, and his last moments were consoled

by a devout participation in the holy rites of that faith, of which he was the protector.

Two anecdotes may find an appropriate place here. His Majesty, when Prince Regent, used to have different preachers at his chapel at Brighton. Among the rest was the Rev. Mr. (now Dr.) Pearson. The reverend divine, at his first appearance in the royal pulpit, delivered a sermon so very different from what was usual there, that his friends were afraid he had gone too far in his dehortations against the prevailing vices of the fashionable world, and that in consequence, his advancement would be impeded by his plain dealing. The prince, however, thanked him cordially for his sermon, and not long afterwards made him Dean of Salisbury.

The King one Sunday morning, having discarded a servant in a passion, and for no serious offence, was respectfully told by the Bishop of Winchester, that he was not in a proper frame of mind to receive the sacrament. His Majesty, instead of being displeased, thanked his monitor, and by restoring the man to his place, recovered his own peace of mind.

His Majesty's tolerant spirit in religious matters has been so fully evinced by the transactions of his reign, such as the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and the grand measure of Catholic Emancipation, that it is needless to enlarge on it in this place.

In the year 1821, the black chief or prince, Rataffe, of Madagascar, visited England. He was a Christian convert, but felt much surprised at the number of religious divisions in this country. When introduced to His Majesty, he could not help noticing the circumstance. The King said, "Be assured, prince, they are not the less good men: they may differ from one another in small matters, but in every important point of the Christian faith they most perfectly and cordially agree. And permit me to add, that every assistance, kindness and protection, given to the missionaries in your country, shall be esteemed and acknowledged by me, as done to myself."

The above particulars, together with what has been previously stated in the course of the work, will enable the reader to form a correct estimate of the character of George IV. as a man and a

sovereign; yet it would be hardly just to withhold the following panegyric delivered by the Duke of Wellington in the House of Lords; for his grace, having been the personal friend and companion of the King long before he was monarch, had the best opportunities of forming an accurate judgment:—

“ Our late sovereign received the best education which this country affords. He had also the singular advantage of having passed all the earliest period of his life, and the greater part of his manhood, under the superintendence of the King, his father, and subsequently in the society of the most eminent men that this country possessed; and he likewise enjoyed the society of the most distinguished foreigners who resorted to this country. His Majesty's manners, accordingly, received a polish, his understanding acquired a degree of cultivation, almost unknown in any individual, and he was admitted by all to be the most accomplished man of his age. My lords, he carried those advantages to the government to which he was afterwards called, and which he so eminently displayed when on the throne.

During the whole course of his government no man ever approached him without having evidence of his dignity, his condescension, his ability, and his fitness for the exalted station which he occupied. But these advantages, which shewed so conspicuously the polish of manners which he possessed, were not only observed by persons immediately around him—for I appeal to many of your lordships who have transacted the business of the country which required an interview with the sovereign, whether his Majesty did not, upon every occasion, evince a degree of knowledge and of talent much beyond that which could reasonably be expected of an individual holding his high station. My lords, this is not all the eulogium which His late Majesty justly deserves. He was a most munificent patron of the arts in this country, and in the world. He possessed a larger collection of the eminent productions of the artists of his own country, than any individual—and it is of him, as an individual, I here speak. The taste and judgment he has displayed in these collections have never been excelled by any sovereign.”

To this it may be added, that, of late years, His Majesty's ruling taste was that of building. Though he could not, like Augustus, boast that he had "found the metropolis of brick, and left it of marble," yet the astonishing improvements that have been made under his reign, have effected a metamorphosis quite as sudden, and not much less beautiful. In the edifices erected or improved under his own special directions, there is indeed a want of the chaste simplicity of the classic models of the art; they are gorgeous rather than grand, and dazzle the eye by their splendor, rather than satisfy the understanding by the harmony of their proportions.

Of late, His Majesty had gradually withdrawn himself more and more from the public eye, and deprived himself of the popularity which he would infallibly have gained by showing himself more frequently to the people, whose feelings towards him were sufficiently manifested by the acclamations with which they always received him when he appeared either at the theatre or on public occasions. Perhaps the unmerited obloquy that had been heaped upon him at an earlier period,

had disgusted him with the ebullitions of popular clamor, and popular applause, as equally worthless. Certain it is, that this love of seclusion grew upon him in such a manner, that he did not like even to be seen.

So averse was he to being observed during his rides in the parks at Windsor, for the last two or three years, that out-riders were always despatched while his poney-chaise was preparing, to whichever of the gates he intended to pass, across the Frogmore road, driving from one park into the other; and if any person was seen loitering near either gate, the course of the ride was instantly altered, to escape even the passing glance of a casual observer. His Majesty seldom drove across to the Long Walk from the Castle, because he was there more likely to be met by the Windsor people. His most private way was through a small gate in the park wall, opposite another small gate in the wall of the grounds at Frogmore, at the Datchet side. He there crossed the road in a moment, and had rides so arranged between Frogmore and Virginia Water, that he had be-

tween twenty and thirty miles of neatly-planted avenues, from which the public were wholly excluded. At certain points of these rides, which opened towards the public thoroughfares of the park, there were always servants stationed on these occasions to prevent the intrusion of strangers upon the King's privacy. The plantations have been so carefully nourished for seclusion around the Royal Lodge, that only the chimneys of the building can now be seen from the space near the Long Walk. The King caused the same rigid exclusion to be enforced, while engaged in fishing, from his grotesque building at Virginia Water; and also when visiting the various temples which he had erected on the grounds.

It has been asserted, and there is reason to believe with much truth, that His Majesty, having so often rallied after severe illness, relied, up to a very late period, on the innate strength of his constitution, till the physicians thought it their duty to warn him of his danger; his mind was often occupied with the improvements which he

still contemplated in the Lodge, the Castle, &c.
and he fondly clung to the hope of enjoying,
during the summer, the beauteous scenes of rural
retirement which were so dear to his heart.

“ Ah ! not to dumb forgetfulness a prey,

This pleasing, anxious being he resigned !

Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,

But cast one longing, lingering look behind ! ”

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